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Saturday May 25 1996

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# The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,562

How middle England sank Paul Gambaccini

## Victim of radio rage



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Interview

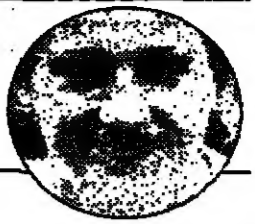
## The new Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool talks to Joanna Coles

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Athletics

## Sally Gunnell returns to the fray

Sport page 9



# Hogg fails to quash sacking rumours

Rebecca Smithers and Stephen Bates

**T**HE Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, fuelled speculation yesterday that John Major might sack him for failing to negotiate an end to the ban on British beef as the Government carried out its threat of a legal challenge to Europe.

Yesterday, in an interview on Today on BBC Radio 4, Mr Hogg — who has effectively been sidelined by Mr Major's decision to appoint a so-called war cabinet for the beef crisis — did nothing to dispel speculation about his precarious position. He refused to say whether he had offered to resign but said he was "not by instinct a quitter". He tacitly acknowledged his vulnerability in the expected summer reshuffle by adding: "All ministers' jobs are at the disposal of the Prime Minister and if he feels somebody else will do it better, I will accept his decision with as much grace as I can muster."

Yes or no?

How Douglas Hogg answered questions about his future:

**John Humphrys:** Do you think there's a problem with your own position, because there seems to be no confidence in you, we're told. **Douglas Hogg:** I'm not by instinct a quitter. This is a difficult and interesting job. I like doing it and I'm very happy to go on doing it. But it's equally true that all ministers' jobs are at the disposal of the Prime Minister and if he feels someone else would do it better, then I would accept his decision with such grace as I can muster.

**Humphrys:** Have you offered to resign? **Hogg:** Ah, that's another matter, isn't it? **Humphrys:** Well, is it? **Hogg:** No, no, ah, what I said to you is broadly what I've said to everyone else.

**Humphrys:** Well, it doesn't quite answer the question of whether you've offered to resign, does it? **Hogg:** Well, I've answered the question.

**Humphrys:** I didn't understand the answer. **Hogg:** Well, that's your misfortune, if you'll forgive me saying so.

**Humphrys:** All right, do you feel you've been sidelined? **Hogg:** No, I certainly don't think that, no...

the commission but with member states.

A group of seven European experts, accompanied by Ministry of Agriculture officials and led by a Finnish vet and an Italian health ministry official, will next week arrive at premises unannounced to carry out the inspections.

After the three-day visit, which starts on Tuesday, they will send a report to Brussels which will go before the following week's agriculture ministers' council.

The inspections are likely to be decisive in determining whether the ban on beef by-products such as semen, gallin and tallow is lifted at the council meeting on June 3 and 4, because they will show whether British beef handlers are still evading the law.

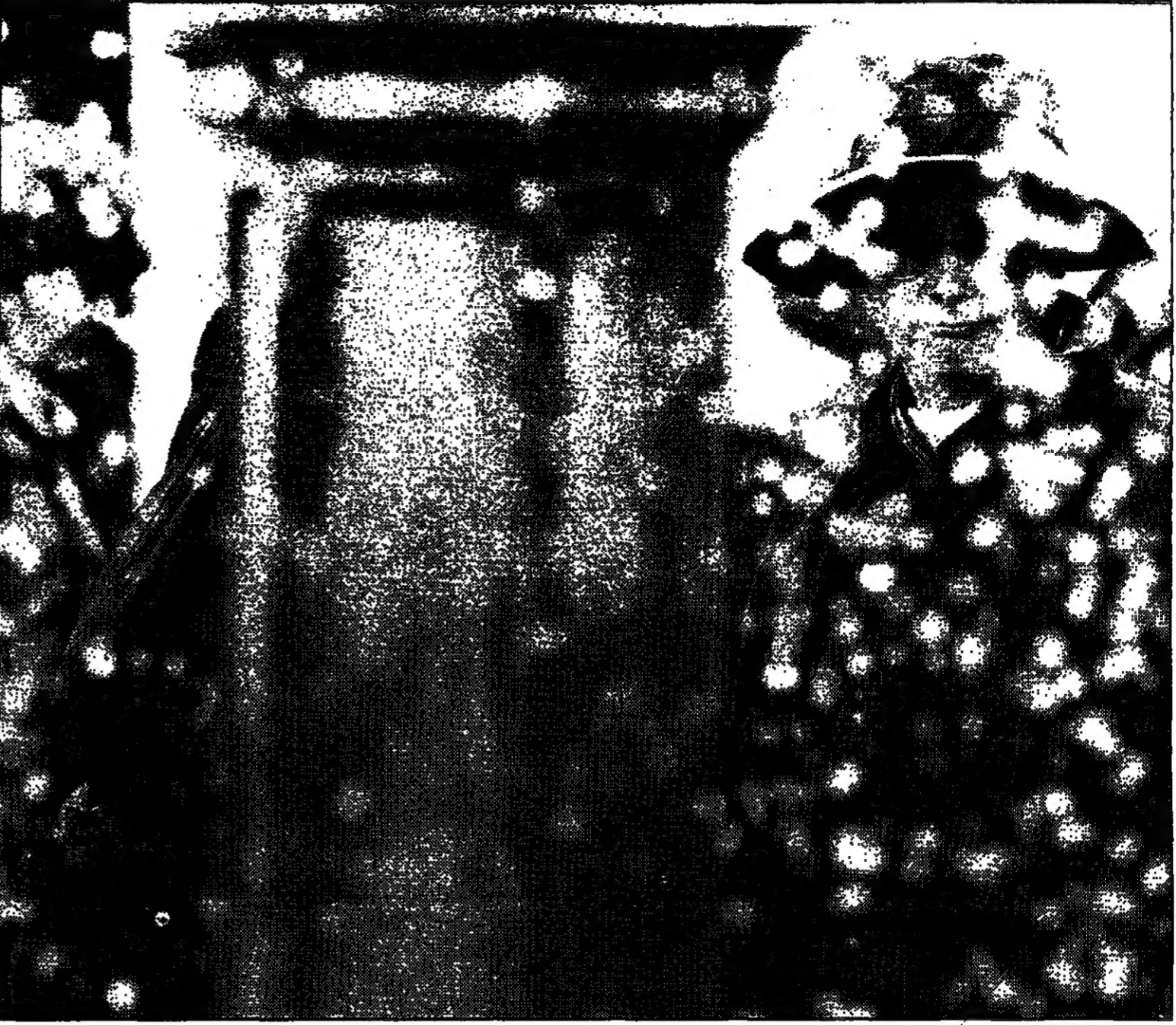
Gavin Strang, Labour's agriculture spokesman, alleged in a speech in Edinburgh yesterday that in the eight weeks to the end of March, when the BSE crisis first emerged, eight mills producing animal feed were still found to be allowing mammalian protein into the product in defiance of regulations introduced in 1988.

In Brussels it emerged that the commission has delayed launching an £8 million advertising campaign to promote beef in the wake of the crisis because it is felt that the timing would not be appropriate.

The crisis is also likely to delay the publication of a commission paper on future food policy in the EU. The paper is being redrafted in Paris because suggested market solutions to food provision — previously favoured by states like Britain — are being rethought.

The quarrel over beef may even have extended the life of the much criticised common agricultural policy. Without it and its subsidies and compensation, the entire industry across Europe could have collapsed.

## Chelsea shower show, and no sun to come



Raindrops kept falling at the Chelsea Flower Show yesterday and a fountain helped to consolidate the water-logged mood

Martin Whitworth

**T**HE drought-stricken badlands of the North basked in sunshine yesterday as upside-down weather delivered rain and a cold snap to London and the South. The logic for

moving Chelsea Flower Show to Harrogate never seemed more obvious. Despite the doom-laden forecasts from the Met Office, unprecedented numbers of people drove out from London and other cities in search of warmth and Whitson peace.

Many crawled to a halt in the Home Counties, with the RAC reporting traffic jams totalling 180 miles. "We can't understand it as the weather is so bad, but we are seeing the busiest start to a Bank Holiday for a long time," said a spokesman. "The M25 is solid,

generally gloomy late May break. Apart from hostile lorries, a freak flock of storm petrels was sighted off the Devon coast yesterday. The birds only fly inshore. Turn to page 3, column 3

Leader comment, page 14

## Anne finds BBC brickbat in 'thank you' bouquet

Andrew Culf Media Correspondent

**T**ELEVISION'S soporific sofa war came to a climax yesterday with an episode more dramatic than anything screened during the four-year ratings battle.

Anne Diamond, the £200,000-a-year queen of daytime television, renowned for her uneasy relations with colleagues and bosses, could not resist one final petulant act to mark the passing of BBC1's Good Morning... with Anne and Nick.

The fit of pique was prompted by a thank you message from Alan Yentob, controller of BBC1 and the man who signed the show's death warrant.

According to one insider, Ms Diamond was handed a bouquet and fax message by Nigel Chapman, head of



Anne Diamond... piqued

broadcasting at Pebble Mill, at a farewell party in Birmingham.

"She read the message and obviously did not agree with what Mr Yentob said about the programme and said: 'After what I have just read I could not possibly accept these flowers. It would be hypocritical'. Then she simply

threw the flowers down on the floor."

Mr Yentob's message had read: "A big thank you for all the professionalism and dedication over the past four years."

By the time the BBC finally admitted defeat in the ratings battle, ITV's This Morning programme, hosted by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley, had one million viewers more than Anne and Nick.

Earlier, Ms Diamond, with her on-screen other-half, Nick Owen, bade a dignified farewell: "It may be goodbye, but we are not going to look back, we are going to be looking at the future."

What the future actually holds for the 41-year-old presenter, known as television's Queen Bee for her apparently effortless rise from the local ATV News to TV-am's sofa and then Good Morning, is unclear.

## Horror greets Kenya's 'miracle cure' for Aids

Chris McGreal in Nairobi

**A** SENIOR adviser to Kenya's president is selling a government-funded "miracle cure" for Aids which, education workers say, has set back years of safe-sex projects — the most recent funded by a \$26 million World Bank grant agreed three months ago.

Professor Arthur Obel, a leading doctor and chief scientist in President Daniel arap Moi's office, launched "Pearl Omega" in March with much fanfare in the state press, the personal endorsement of Mr Moi and praise from the administration in parliament.

Since the launch, thousands of the estimated 1 million Kenyans afflicted by Aids or being HIV positive have handed over £350 for a course of Pearl Omega, which comes in a wine bottle and is 5 per cent proof.

Non-Kenyans are also among the buyers. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, 13 million people are infected with the virus.

Within Kenya, about 80,000 of the sufferers are children.

"We have hit a jackpot! Pearl Omega is the hottest cake in town," Prof Obel told

a Kenyan newspaper. "The government has told me to go ahead, assuring me of the full backing of the system."

The drug is made by Biodyne, a company set up specifically for the purpose with government funds, and headed by Mr Moi's former press secretary.

Prof Obel claims secret research proves that Pearl Omega causes a reversal of Aids symptoms and can even totally rid the body of the HIV virus.

But he has refused to reveal what is in Pearl Omega, to produce anyone who has benefited from the drug, or to hold himself accountable to Kenya's professional medical organisations.

Critics say he has used powerful political connections to intimidate the medical profession into an uncorroborated silence.

Mr Moi's office did not respond to requests for comment.

Although a health ministry board two weeks ago banned the sale of Pearl Omega in pharmacies, Prof Obel continues to dispense it from his medical practice, where emaciated Aids sufferers pack the waiting room to turn over their savings for the supposed cure.


Millions of pounds of foreign aid, along with tons of free condoms, have been dedicated to persuading Kenyans to take Aids seriously, Britain and the World Health Organisation, through funding for Kenyan family health projects, are among the donors.

But Aids workers say they are running into increasing hostility from people who say safe sex no longer matters now that there is a cure.

Unless they can be persuaded otherwise, the health ministry's estimates that the number of Kenyans infected with HIV will have risen by 80 per cent at the end of the century, and the number of Aids orphans will double to 600,000, may be conservative.

On Tuesday, the courts are to hear an application by the Kenya Aids Society aimed at forcing Prof Obel to reveal Pearl Omega's formula, to register it as a drug and to submit it to government pricing controls.

Critics back their suspicions by pointing to his history. Six years ago, he was behind the launch of another widely hailed government-backed Aids "cure", which was taken seriously in Kenya for several years before it was finally discredited.



**The Schizophrenia Association of Great Britain**

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The Schizophrenia Association of Great Britain acknowledges funding from the National Lottery Charities Board UK for a campaign for raising awareness about Schizophrenia

**Inside**

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# Rifkind throws hat into ring

Rebecca Smithers  
Political Correspondent

**T**HE Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, was the latest Cabinet hopeful to launch an unabashed bid for the leadership of the Conservative Party yesterday, with a rare speech on domestic policy in which he set out the challenges facing the Tories over the next 10 years.

Having declared a right-wing agenda on Europe this week through Britain's handling of the beef crisis, Mr Rifkind yesterday went beyond his own policy area, calling for a radical shift away from public provision towards the private sector for health, education and welfare.

In what was described by his aides as a "philosophical and reflective" speech on the long-term direction of Conservative social policy, he admitted that cuts in health and education would be sensitive but said they were essential if the public sector was to be reduced in size.

"As a party, we believe in the freedom of the individual and the acceptance of individual responsibility. That means in fiscal terms that we should always be looking to reduce the burden of taxation when it is fiscally prudent."

Mr Rifkind's speech to members of the Tory Reform Group was a lecture in memory of the late Tory MP Alick Buchanan-Smith, which had been arranged some time ago. But at Westminster it was immediately seized upon as the

latest challenge for the Conservative leadership, coming just days after speeches by rival contenders, the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, and the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell.

Mr Rifkind said that in the National Health Service, there should be a relentless search for efficiency savings by cutting out unnecessary administration and ensuring that doctors focus on proven treatments.

And following the introduction of nursery vouchers, there had to be a further examination of the public and private mix in the provision of education.

Mr Rifkind deliberately avoided the question of protection tax cuts, and admitted that "achieving lower taxation is going to be even more difficult in today's society because we have grown used to the constant cry that something must be done to remedy any failure and it should be the Government that does it."

His comments are likely to cheer Tory right-wingers who have been pressing for spending cuts in order to reduce taxes.

Just a day after he accused Tony Blair of undermining the Government's efforts to get the worldwide ban on British beef lifted, Mr Rifkind said: "Labour is Labour even in a sharp suit. New Labour are as much a threat to Scotland and the United Kingdom as the dinosaur which sired them."

"It is not our job to make Labour safe for Britain, it is our task to make this dinosaur extinct."



The scene outside the crematorium in Lewisham, south London, yesterday at the funeral of veteran anarchist Albert Meltzer

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

## 'And when I die, don't send me flowers . . .'

Just ask what the boys in the back room will have — and let's all have a good laugh. Gary Younge on an anarchist's last rites

**T**O FOLLOW Albert Meltzer, one of the most cherished figureheads of the anarchist movement, to his final resting place yesterday, you need only have followed the black and red stars that lined the roads from the aptly named Celestial Gardens to the local crematorium in Lewisham, south London.

Glistening in the rain, they stood proudly on the lapels and earlobes of the mourners, all in black and with ponytails a plenty, who braved the weather to walk behind the horse-drawn funeral procession to the sounds of the Bill Stacks Southern Ragga Jazz Band.

From the elderly veterans of the Spanish civil war in their black berets to the young white rascals in their 18-hole Doc Martens boots, the only part of the community that seemed to be missing were the scruffy dogs that they lead around on strings.

During his life, Meltzer's various jobs — hairdresser, promoter, warehouseman and copytaker for the Daily Tele-

graph, to mention but a few — served only as a sideline for his passionate adherence to his own brand of anarchosyndicalism which he had pursued in a number of guises since the age of 15.

He had fought Mosley's blackshirts in Cable Street, shipped arms to the republican resistance during the civil war, and helped anti-Nazi forces in pre-war Germany.

Before his death, at the age of 76, he had made specific plans for the type of send-off he thought would do him justice.

"Personally I want to die in dignity but have my passing celebrated with jollity. I've told my executors that I want a stand-up comedian in the pulpit telling amusing anecdotes, and the coffin to slide into the incinerator to the sound of Marlene Dietrich," were his last requests.

He would not have been disappointed. After a few gags from the stand-up comedian Noel James, the coffin was whisked away, accompanied

by Dietrich singing See What The Boys In The Back Room Will Have.

Then came a powerful song, They Called Me Al, by David Campbell, followed by a two-minute video which simply showed Meltzer laughing uncontrollably as someone attempted to interview him.

The congregation followed suit, but by the time they left the crematorium some were reduced to tears, a state of affairs that Meltzer had forebade. "Anyone mourning should be denounced as the representative of a credit card company and thrown out on their ear," he wrote.

In the end that was not necessary as those assembled climbed into two hired coaches and were taken away for an afternoon of "jovial remembrance".

But as they left to drink a toast to the man who had been so resolute in all things political, Meltzer had put a question mark over the fate of his soul.

He wrote: "If I have miscalculated . . . and there really is a God, I'd like to feel if he's got any sense of humour or feeling for humanity, there's nobody he would sooner have in heaven than people like me. And if he hasn't, who wants in?"

## Road rage appeal lifts police hopes of catching killer

Stuart Miller

**P**OLICE are hoping for a breakthrough this weekend in the hunt for the road rage killer of Steve Cameron after thousands of callers responded to an emotional television appeal by the dead man's fiancée.

More than 200 calls were received in the two hours after Thursday's BBC Crimewatch UK programme alone. Kent police said the response had been extraordinary. Some names given to police were mentioned more than once.

The information will be sifted by more than 20 officers this weekend. "This is a very long and laborious process, but it has to be done because we are determined that we are going to get him," said a spokeswoman.

"We hope there will be new lines of inquiry from the information we have been given and that we will solve this sooner rather than later."

Mr Cameron, aged 21, was stabbed to death on Sunday at

the Swanley intersection of the M25 by the driver of an L-registered Land Rover Discovery. His fiancée, Danielle Cable, aged 17, who saw the killing, appealed for witnesses to come forward.

One setback for detectives is that there are nearly 18,000 L-registered Discoveries in Britain and not the 1,000 they first thought.

Police are convinced that somebody is shielding the killer.

Detective Superintendent John Grace said some callers were giving good information, but the calls were taking a long time to work through.

The driver of the Land Rover is described as in his late thirties to early fifties, 5ft 10in, medium build, with dark greying hair. The murder incident room telephone number is 01322 283170.

● Ronald Francis, a 73-year-old war veteran from West Sussex, was assaulted by three young men in Fort-

## Traffic jams but not much sunshine for bank holiday

continued from page 1 on the approach of rough weather.

The flock of 127 taking refuge in Plymouth Sound is the largest recorded in the area.

Flights of a different kind were meanwhile helping to cope with a last-minute rush to the sun, on the Continent and beyond, by some 1,500,000 Britons.

On Monday, record numbers of travellers are expected on Eurostar services, breaking the Channel Tunnel's Easter total of 20,000 passengers in one day.

One weather expert, BBC Five Live's Phillip Eden, said Britain was heading for its third coldest May this century, with only those of 1902 and 1941 proving chillier.

But the Meteorological Office offered some hope of improved weather by Monday.

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THIS STORY IS BASED ON THE EVIDENCE OF THE RAINFORREST COMMUNITY.

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**On the face of it, the convict trade makes good sense. Why should cells stand empty while inmates in states like Arizona and New Jersey languish in tents?**

**Ian Katz, Outlook Front**

Police arrest 20 suspected ringleaders • Images of 200 wanted men captured on film of Newcastle rampage

# Raids herald crackdown on Euro 96 hooligans

Peter Hetherington

**P**OLICE are planning a further crackdown on hundreds of soccer hooligans to prevent violence during the European football championships after a series of dawn raids in the North-east yesterday.

Twenty suspected ringleaders of a Newcastle group called the Gremmins were arrested after police burst into 25 houses in Tyneside and Durham and Northumbria Police will next week release photographs of 200 other wanted men filmed on closed circuit television cameras.

They were at the centre of rioting three weeks ago when almost 1,000 fans rampaged through Newcastle after the last match of the season.

Police said they had gained valuable information on organised networks apparently bent on disrupting Euro 96, which begins in two weeks and lasts for much of June.

Their tactic is to continue arrests in the hope of removing potential troublemakers from the tournament — to be staged in Newcastle, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, Nottingham, Birmingham and London — and by urging strict bail conditions. Other forces are considering similar action.

Racist and hooligan literature seized in yesterday's raids, codenamed Operation Harvest — as well as a small arsenal of weapons from machetes to imitation firearms — will be passed to the football unit of the National Criminal Intelligence Service, which has established links with European police forces.



Weapons seized during raids in the North-east yesterday when 20 suspected soccer hooligans were arrested

Villa Park, Wembley, Old Trafford and Nottingham's City Ground have been highlighted as potential flash-points. More than 10,000 Turks are likely to arrive in Nottingham without tickets.

Alan Oliver, an assistant chief constable in Northumbria, said yesterday that material seized in yesterday's raids revealed a high level of organisation among suspected hooligan groups. The potential for violence away from stadiums during the

championships was "very worrying".

Northumbria officers have already obtained copies of calling cards from the Gremmins, based in the North-east. These state: "Euro 96, Newcastle back on the map — Gremmins the new batch."

They have also been told that a group from Sunderland, the Seaburn Casuals, has been placing posters in pubs saying they are "looking for blood" during the championships.

The Home Secretary Michael Howard said yesterday's raids were a tribute to the effectiveness of closed circuit television (CCTV). Newcastle boasts the most extensive CCTV network in the country, installed four years ago.

Superintendent Peter Durham, who co-ordinated the raids and chairs a national committee of senior officers preparing for Euro 96, said he would not be satisfied until many more were arrested.

"We have identified 200 responsible for a range of offences from violent disorder to theft and criminal damage," he added. "We will be asking people to identify them from photographs (to be released next week)."

## Anarchists plan football violence against racists and fascists

John Duncan Sports Correspondent

**T**HE anarchist group Class War warned yesterday that it was planning to attack racists and fascists during the Euro 96 soccer tournament.

"For too long football hooliganism has been seen to be the preserve of the Nazis," said Dave Clark, spokesman for Class War. "With the contacts we have we can unite black and some white footy fans against the stupid racist Nazis in Britain and Europe we have been monitoring the Nazis and we will take part in



Class War stickers for Euro 96: 'For too long football hooliganism has been seen to be the preserve of the Nazis'

any activities necessary to prevent their influence spreading."

Class War Hooliganz have started their campaign under the slogan Hooliganz with Attitude and have distributed 10,000 stickers to promote their Euro 96 campaign. The

stickers include the slogans "Hooligans slap racists and Nazis", "The only good racist is a dead one" and "Power to the people: No racists, no cops, no bosses".

Mr Clark said: "We welcome ordinary working class footy fans, but the European

and British Nazis had better stay away if they know what is good for them."

But Class War's stance was rejected by leading anti-racist campaigners in football. Kevin Miles, one of the figures behind the video Show Racism the Red Card, released today, said: "The danger is that this sort of thing plays into the hands of people in authority who want to see racism as a public order issue on a par with spitting or bad language. They just see the battle against racism as a battle between two sets of thugs, which it isn't."

"There aren't many hard core racists operating but there are plenty around them who are up for a ruck. If you set things like this up you are in danger of putting petrol on the flames, of helping the Nazis attract followers."



United they stand... Bradford City chairman Geoffrey Richmond with Mohammed Aurangzeb of the Asian supporters' club and mosque president Khadim Hussein after midday prayers at the mosque yesterday

## Mosques and churches echo high hopes of Bradford's faithful football fans for vital Wembley win

Martha Wainwright

**T**HE graceful Urdu blessings of Imam Mohammed Basir Tahil were punctuated at Friday prayers in Bradford yesterday by the unexpected words "Bradford City", "Wembley" and "First Division".

Before 300 white-capped worshippers in the former Anglican church in Manningham, the imam added Muslim morale-boosting to an inter-faith experiment in "pray as you play".

Religious leaders in the West Yorkshire city have joined forces to test the power of faith against the

skills of Nottingham City in tomorrow's play-off for promotion to Division One. Christians, Muslims and other faiths will focus their minds on Wembley during the match, after ceremonies yesterday and tomorrow.

"It should be worth a one goal start at least," said City's chairman Geoffrey Richmond, sitting shoeless on the carpet of Victor Street mosque, only yards from the scene of last summer's riots. "This marvellous gesture will do a lot for the players' morale."

At 5.30am tomorrow, a Pentecost communion will be held in the cathedral — allowing time for Provost John Robertson and other clerical fans to catch supporters' coaches to London. Mr Robertson said: "This is an excellent way of expressing the city's unity."

His sentiments were echoed by mosque president Khadim Hussein, who said: "Football is very popular among our young people. They really want City to get into the big league."

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**JOB WITH B.M.W. BEER. MEDITATION. WORSHIP.**

There weren't many perks for those who lived in the Bury St. Edmunds monastery in the 13th century.

For ten hours a day, they were on their knees in prayer — but in the evening, they were allowed eight pints of the Abbot's Ale (which presumably had a similar effect on them).

The ale was brewed in the monastery with natural spring water drawn from its own well.

Today we're still drawing water from the same source for our own Abbot Ale.

And while most other beers are fermented for just three or four days, Abbot is fermented slowly for a full seven ('Blessed by the Sabbath') to give it a rich, deep flavour.

Many have declared Abbot Ale to be one of the finest real ales you can buy. Which, frankly, is a bigger boost for our egos than any flash car could provide.

**ABBOT ALE FROM GREENE-KING**

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

# 'Obsessed' killer to be detained for life after shooting rampage

Vivek Chaudhary

**A** FORMER civil servant who was obsessed with the devil and Hungerford mass killer Michael Ryan was yesterday ordered to be detained at a secure mental unit for life after going on a shooting spree, killing one man and wounding 16 others.

Robert Sartin went on the rampage in Monkseaton on Tyne-side in April 1988 but his case took more than seven years to resolve because he was considered unfit to plead at the time.

Durham crown court heard yesterday that since the shootings Sartin, of Whitley Bay, north Tyne-side, has been treated at Ashworth Hospital on Merseyside, to which he has now returned.

Sartin, aged 22 at the time of the shootings, was charged with murdering British Telecom manager Ken Mackintosh and attempting to murder 16 others.

As each charge was read out to him, he replied: "Not guilty by virtue of insanity."



A police officer stands guard over the body of Ken Mackintosh in a Monkseaton street

David Robson, QC, told the court that Sartin left his home on April 30, 1988, armed with his father's double-barrelled shotgun and drove to Monkseaton.

First he shot Judith Rhodes, aged 43, who was driving along the road. He then shot five others before coming across Mr Mackintosh, who was walking home from church.

Sartin shot him with both barrels from a distance of 20 yards and then blasted him from a closer range.

Robert Wilson, aged 39, who stepped out from his home after hearing the shooting, was also shot.

The final victim was an elderly woman, who was working in her front garden. Sartin was arrested after an unarmed police constable fol-

lowed him into a pub car park. He was found to be carrying a knife and an ammunition belt with five cartridges.

Ordering that Sartin spend the rest of his life in a secure unit, Mr Justice Kennedy told him: "There is no question that this tragedy came about because you were, as you remain, a gravely ill man."

He ordered Sartin to be "detained without limit of time".

An apology from Sartin was read out in court. "What I want my victims and the family of Mr Mackintosh to know is that their awful pain was not the result of a planned or intended crime and there was no pleasure involved."

"It was completely the product of a mental illness so severe that reality was taken over by insanity."

He concluded: "I am so very sorry."

The court heard that as a youth, Sartin was fascinated by the devil and serial killers. According to reports, he once went on a "pilgrimage" to Hungerford, scene of the 1987 massacre.

Marian Swan, a psychiatrist, said after the hearing that Sartin suffered from a major psychotic illness, a form of schizophrenia.

She said the shootings came during a "short period of absolute insanity" and that Sartin had remained extremely unwell ever since.

Dr Swan added that while at Ashworth Hospital, Sartin had become distressed about the shootings in Dunblane and in Tasmania.



Shotgun killer Robert Sartin: considered unfit to plead for seven years

## Schoolboy fascinated by occult, collecting and 'torturing the cat'

Vivek Chaudhary

**ROBERT Sartin** once listed his interests while at school as "shooting, reading, collecting things to do with the occult and torturing the cat."

A former teacher said he was interested in Satan, and once, during a religious education examination, he only wrote about satanic rituals.

"The problems also surfaced in English and art... his drawings were often based on popular films where the sado-masochistic emphasis was heavy," said the teacher.

After being referred to the Child Guidance Service in 1982, and seen by a psychologist, he wrote a letter of apology to his teachers. His parents confiscated all his satanist books and burned his associated drawings. During his last two years as a pupil, he was as "reclusive as possible", said the teacher. "His personality was neither offensive nor notably weak, just,

most of the time, neutral. "The most striking thing I remember about him at this stage was that it took the perverse, the obscene and the twisted to animate his interest in producing art work".

After getting poor exam results, Sartin became the assistant caretaker at his school in Whitley Bay before getting a job as a Department of Social Security clerk in 1986.

Psychiatrists were concerned about Sartin's behaviour even while he was still at school. Once, after a family holiday on the South Coast, Sartin persuaded his father to divert to Hungerford, Berkshire, where Michael Ryan shot dead 15 people before killing himself. Sartin went on an anti-Jonah pilgrimage around the sites where Ryan carried out his shootings.

Despite knowing of their son's troubled history, Sartin's parents expressed shock when they learned of his shooting spree in Monkseaton.

## Father fights deportation

Geoffrey Gibbs

**A** CHINESE who has lived in Cornwall for 17 years is about to be separated from his British wife and British-born daughter and deported to Hong Kong because the Home Office refuses to recognise him as a special case.

Hing Fai "Albert" Tong overstayed his visitor's visa in 1979 and married his wife, Becky, in 1982, after the Home Office had started deportation moves. But the couple have been living together since 1983 and deny that it was a marriage of convenience.

Mr Tong, now 43, came to Britain to see his younger brother in Manchester. He travelled to Cornwall with a friend whom he met with Becky's family and settled in the former tin mining town. His friendship with Becky — 20 years his junior and then aged only seven — grew over the years until they began living together when she was 17.

Their case has aroused strong support in Camborne where 1,000 people have signed a petition backing Mr Tong. Mrs Tong is awaiting a cataract operation and their daughter, Monica, aged 9, is distraught at the prospect of losing her father.

"She was enjoying nursery but now she screams for her daddy," said Mrs Tong. "She is very, very wary of strangers who come to the house now. She sticks by Albert and is scared to let him out of her sight. Monica and I can't go to Hong Kong. We are British citizens and when China

takes over next year they will be trying to get rid of people born in different countries."

Barring a last-minute change of mind by the Home Office, however, Mr Tong will be deported from Heathrow next Wednesday. A lengthy tussle in the courts ended earlier this month when the Court of Appeal ruled that the deportation order was not open to judicial review. Solicitors are preparing to take the case to the European Court of Human Rights and are working to persuade the Home Office to allow Mr Tong to stay pending a hearing.

Sebastian Coe, Tory MP for Falmouth and Camborne, told the family last week that the Home Office was not prepared to reconsider its decision. But the case has been taken up by Matthew Taylor, Liberal Democrat MP for the neighbouring Truro constituency and in Europe by Robin Teverson, Liberal Democrat MEP for Cornwall and West Plymouth.

Mr Teverson said he was raising the issue because of concern that the deportation was breaking up a family. "For a Government that is talking about family values all the time they are splitting up a British family under circumstances where it is less and less likely to be able to get back together again."

David Mudd, the former MP for Falmouth and Camborne, said: "There is still a ray of hope. While the Home Office has undoubtedly won the case there is still a question of whether it has the duty or the discretion to effect the deportation."

## Labour rebel councillors form plan to launch their own party

Barbie Duttler

**REBEL** Labour councillors who were expelled from the party last year after forming a breakaway faction are planning to launch an alternative party and field candidates in the general election.

A number of the 15 Walsall councillors who were expelled in December over-

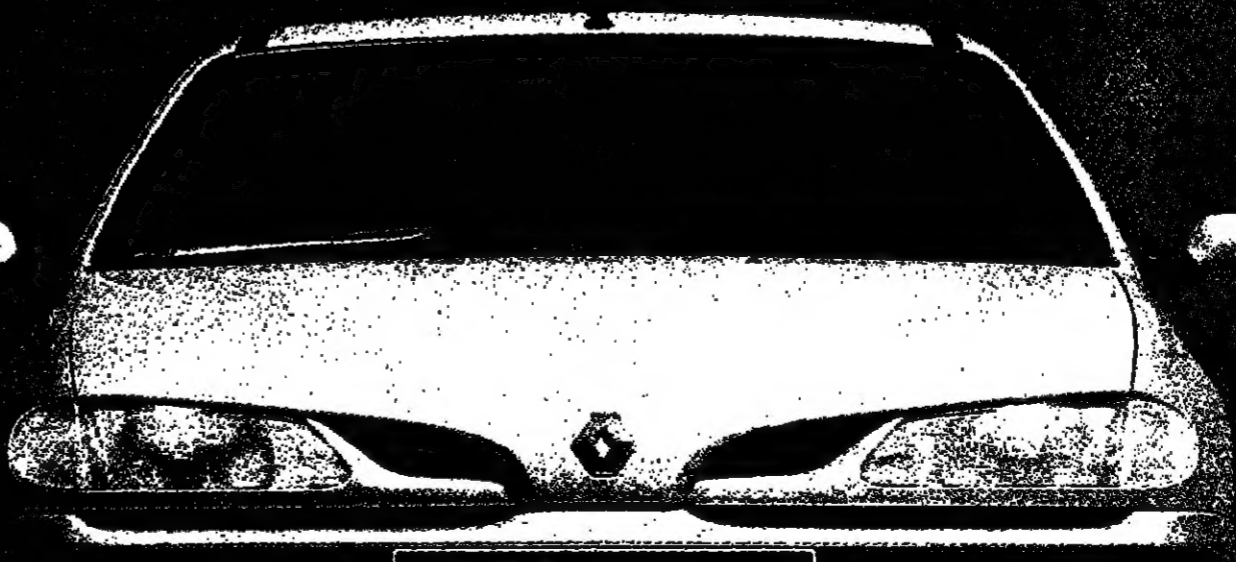
claims that they operated a "party within a party" hope to launch their Democratic Labour Party in June.

One of those behind the move is the former mayor, Cyril Leaker. The formation of the party would bring a third Labour party into the political arena, following the launch of Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party in May 1.

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6 WORLD NEWS

# Police plan 'ethnic database'

Paul Webster in Paris

**C**ONCERN is growing inside France's national commission on electronic data and freedom about police plans to create a super-database pooling details of the ethnic origins and political views of anyone detained by the police.

According to sources in the commission (the CNIL), police want to combine up to 30 computerised personal data banks, giving them access to intimate details on any person who at any time had been held in custody, whether the person was charged or not. These would be kept on record for up to 50 years, even if an accused was set free or acquitted.

French police already carry out random identity checks and searches, under measures introduced in 1983. Failure to produce official identity papers results in automatic police custody until proof is produced.

During last year's terrorist attacks, hundreds of thousands of people were stopped for questioning and several thousand were held until their identity had been confirmed. The controls enabled police to deport hundreds of illegal immigrants.

Police cars are equipped with computer terminals which allow instant access to some data banks which have been particularly effective in arresting illegal immigrants. Under new powers being discussed by the interior ministry, restricted police files

would also be open to the special branch and the secret services, which would contribute their own classified data on political views, friendships and international contacts.

The interior ministry has submitted plans to create new detailed files which would be accessible to police. A master file, linked to other computerised sources of information and updated from manually-kept files, would identify about a dozen ethnic types, some of which would be subdivided by colour nuances.

The master file would include details of accents and a vague area linked to acquaintances and personal life. This is intended to get round a 1990 socialist government proposal, opposed by the CNIL, to allow police to put political and religious opinions on a master file.

Human rights organisations, including the League of Human Rights, are understood to be pressing for public disclosure of the proposals, after reports that police are already abusing restrictions on computerised information by amassing confidential information. Lawyers in Paris and Marseille have recently asked for government action on specific cases.

Police files based on ethnic information have been a sensitive and emotional issue since the second world war, when French police made a detailed census of more than 300,000 Jews. The files were used by French and German security forces in round-ups which led to the murder of 75,000 people in Nazi camps.



Tears of war... A Russian soldier mourns a colleague killed in the wreckage of an armoured vehicle that was attacked by Chechen rebels in Vedeno. President Boris Yeltsin yesterday confirmed he will meet the rebel leader, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, for talks on Monday. PHOTOGRAPH: YURI KOCHETOV

# Tirana leader warns of past

Helena Smith in Athens

**A**T THE end of an electoral contest marked by violence and accusations of skulduggery and dirty tricks, Albanians will get their third taste of ballot-box democracy tomorrow.

Throughout the campaign, Dr Sali Berisha, the cardiologist-turned-president, has appealed to Albanians not to let their country slip back into communism by following the pattern established in other east European nations.

Yesterday, the conservative leader was expected to warn the electorate against repeating the perils of the past at a mass rally held in the central square of Tirana, the capital.

Until Albania's emergence from 45 years of Stalinist isolation in 1991, the square was dominated by the bronze features of Enver Hoxha — the late dictator whose ruthless rule is widely blamed for the country's present woes.

But the president's message could fall on deaf ears. In recent days polls have suggested the opposition Socialists are closing the gap on Dr Berisha's ruling Democratic Party, despite the leader's warnings that a conservative defeat would kill off reforms and European integration.

The apparent drop in support for the Democrats is linked as much to the public's mounting desire for the social security blanket of the past, as with criticism of its leader.

Dr Berisha, aged 51, has come under attack for his authoritarian manner. Critics claim the Democrats, who won a landslide victory in 1992, have shamelessly sought votes through crude manipulation of the electoral law and heavy-handed control of the courts and media.

Since Dr Berisha's failed attempt to enhance his presidential powers in a constitutional referendum two years ago, opponents have accused him of emulating Hoxha — whose doctor he was — by running a police state.

The refusal to release Fatos Nano, the Socialist Party leader jailed on questionable corruption charges two years ago — despite appeals by human rights groups — has added to claims of injustice.

Earlier this week Socialist Party campaigners clashed with riot police apparently intent on disrupting opposition gatherings.

"In many towns and villages, legal activities, especially of the opposition, have been hampered," a human rights worker said. "There has been far too much interference by the police."

No one expects any of the 22 parties contesting the race for a place in the 140-seat parliament to win an outright majority in the first round. Fears are mounting that the ballot will be rigged when Albania's 2.2 million voters go to the polls for the second and decisive round on June 2.

# Telekom snarl-up leaves media speechless

Ian Traynor reports from Bonn on a society with antiquated consumer services in which the customer is always wrong

**T**HE fax machine purred into action and disgorged its message: Deutsche Telekom, the national telephone company, issuing an invitation to its annual ahndig and a

drink with the bosses. Then, without warning, the line in the Guardian's Bonn office went dead. And the telephone line. And the computer line.

A newspaper office without a telephone is an orphan, helpless and lonely. Battle had to be joined to restore the umbilical cord to mother in London. But this is Germany in 1996 where service, if it

comes at all, comes with a snarl.

One evening this week in the food hall of the biggest department store in Bonn, a shopper stood hoping to buy fish for 20 minutes before a grudging sales assistant manned the counter.

In the banks, where client confidentiality in routine daily transactions is thoroughly alien, there is minimal attempt to sell banking services, rather the assumption that they are doing the tiresome customer a favour by condescending to handle his money. And charging for it, of course. Banking a British cheque for £140 last month saw the customer's account credited with £109, a 22 per cent fee for processing the cheque.

The motorway service stations are a throwback to 1970s Britain. A motorist arriving recently from Austria had still to change money and had only Austrian schillings. There was no exchange office, but before joining the queue for lunch, he checked he could pay with schillings. The sign said this was "in order". When he got to the till, the woman demanded a surcharge costing almost half as much again as the food.

Converted into Austrian currency from marks, the food cost 210 schillings, but she would accept only 100-schilling notes, and so the bill had gone up to 300. A 10-minute row followed. She was immovable.

The government constantly berates the public for being "inflexible", damping job creation. Some

politicians even suggest that the occasional snarl might help to boost what must be the most under-developed service sector among the big Western economies.

Parliament, after more than a year of agitated navel-gazing, still cannot decide on longer and more flexible shop-opening times, fashioning a constitutional crisis out of the small matter of perhaps being able to buy a loaf of bread on a Saturday afternoon.

In the saga of Deutsche Telekom and the Guardian's incommunicado condition, the lines were eventually restored, but only after two days of alternating polite entreaties and irate demands progressively moving up the command hierarchy.

It could have been worse. It could have happened before Deutsche Telekom launched its corporate charm offensive last year, with the new chairman, Ron Sommer, boasting: "We want to become the most customer-friendly company on the global telecommunications market."

The crisis arose because the subscriber had requested an extra service in the billing procedure. This required forms filled out in triplicate, signed faxes confirming the application. As a result, the Guardian was left speechless, faxless, expelled from the Infobahn. The explanation: the subscriber was told he had asked for the lines to be cut. It's obvious, it was all the customer's fault.

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# A chasm hidden beneath the gloss

## The personal imagery marking the campaigns for Wednesday's Israeli polls conceals a huge ideological gulf, Derek Brown in Jerusalem writes

ONE candidate promises peace with security. The other pledges that security comes first, along with a commitment to peace. Little wonder that voters and pundits alike are saying that this is an election without choice. They are wrong. The campaign may be lacklustre but the outcome is critical to the country and to the region. The superficial gloss of reassuring centrist waffle cannot conceal the ideological chasm which separates the contenders for power.

Yet this is a highly personal contest in which image far outweighs ideology in importance. The contradiction is simply explained: for the first time, Israelis will be voting directly for the next prime minister. Whoever wins that two-horse race — irrespective of the composition of the 14th Knesset (parliament) — will be virtually guaranteed power for the next four years and into the next millennium.

At the age of 72 the prime minister, Shimon Peres, has been carving his way to the top since Israel was born in 1948. A consummate wheeler-dealer, he has skillfully promoted himself as an intellectual, an elder statesman and, above all, a visionary.

Such two-dimensional portraits are not just misleading — they are plain wrong. As he strides the world stage, Mr Peres has shown in the past six months an appetite for power undiminished by the quest for peace. In the immediate aftermath of the November 4

assassination by a Jewish zealot of Yitzhak Rabin, Mr Peres seemed almost a broken man. Then foreign minister, he told Labour parliamentarians: "Fear for the future fills my heart. Boundless and unending fear."

But within days, Mr Peres was restored. Restored in morale and vigour, and

### Hustings fail to inspire faithful

IT IS the all-holds-barred election: there are no leaders, no mass rallies, no mudslinging — it's all very un-Israeli, writes Jessica Berry in Jerusalem.

But this is the new Israel, still traumatised by November's Rabin assassination. Secret servicemen are keeping the prime minister, Shimon Peres far away from the crowds, if indeed there is a crowd at all.

The fear of being labelled an extremist has muted even the most daring activists. Just one tiny incident has marred a campaign otherwise ho-hum: a Likud hired hand shot a Labour rival in the leg.

Mr Peres, and Likud's Binjamin Netanyahu, have even cancelled end-of-campaign rallies. The reason, say pundits, is a combination of security fears and anxiety that crowds would be embarrassingly sparse.

restored to the office which he last held with great success in the mid-1980s, and which he has coveted all his life.

At the end of last year, as occupying Israeli troops pulled out of Palestinian cities in the West Bank, it seemed that the tragedy of Mr Rabin's assassination had given the peace process a

much needed kickstart. But in early January, Israeli agents assassinated Yahya Ayyash, master bombmaker for the Hamas Islamist movement, in the Gaza Strip.

The killing was hugely popular. The young West Bank graduate had been responsible for the taking of scores of Israeli lives by suicide bombers. There was no concession to the possibility that the murder of Ayyash, as cold-blooded as any he committed himself, might provoke more Hamas attacks.

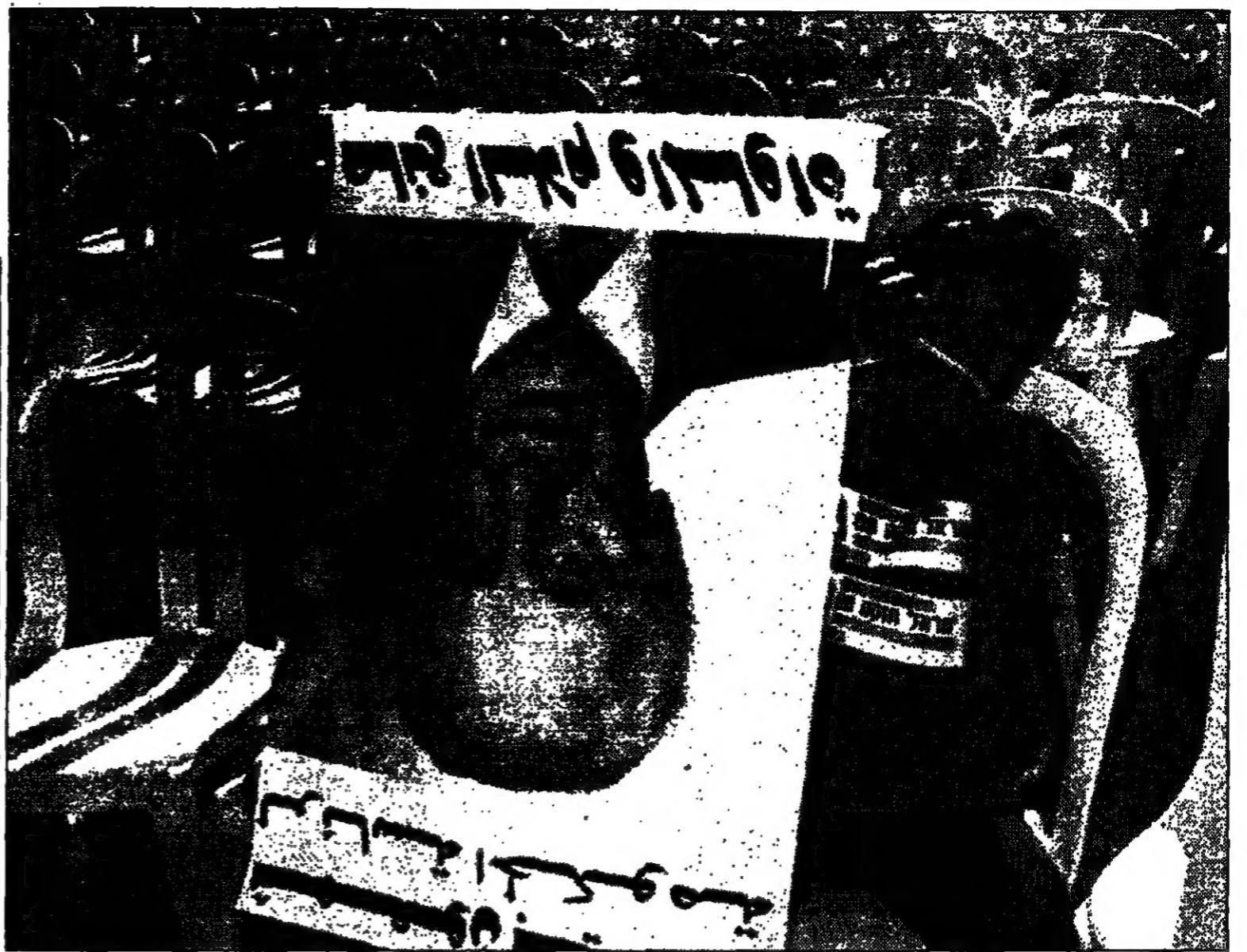
Revenge came to Israel, horribly, in late March and early February, when 63 lives were blown away in four suicide bombings. The prime minister's immediate response was to seal off the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and to halt the planned withdrawal of occupation forces from most of Hebron.

It proved to be the most prolonged and the most callously enforced closure of the dozens imposed by Israel. Indeed, although there have been minor relaxations, the order is still in force. But it was not enough: Israeli nerves were scraped raw by the horrific bombings. The prime minister's unassailable 20 per cent lead in the opinion polls evaporated. The country was at war and the man of peace was no longer trusted.

Last month brought another opportunity for Mr Peres to choose between statesmanship and tough-guy image building. A series of tit-for-tat exchanges on the border with Lebanon raised a howl of righteous protest that the government was not protecting northern residents from rocket attacks by Hizbullah guerrillas.

Mr Peres seized his chance, giving his blessing to the Israeli army's idea of proportionate response: a hail of artillery fire, helicopter gunship raids on Beirut and air strikes on alleged Hizbullah targets. Two hundred Lebanese were killed — more than 100 of them refugees sheltering with the United Nations — and about 400,000 were made homeless.

Like the murder of Ayyash, the Lebanon adventure was, by all and large, popular with Israelis. The prime minister's



Misleading portrait... An Israeli-Arab girl inadvertently holds a poster of Shimon Peres upside down at a Labour rally

PHOTOGRAPHY: NATI HARNIK

standing in the opinion polls has stabilised, and even recovered a trifle. He is now said to have a lead over Mr Netanyahu of between four and seven percentage points. It sounds good, but if these figures are accurate, Mr Peres is dangerously reliant on the votes of Israeli Arabs — about 11 per cent of the electorate — many of whom have been alienated by the closure policy and by the bloody campaign in Lebanon.

SEVERAL Arab leaders have endorsed Mr Peres in the prime ministerial race. Others have urged abstention. Predictably, there is no serious notion of an Arab protest vote for Mr Netanyahu. For all his apparent trimming and soft-pedalling in the campaign,

the Likud leader is, and always has been, a hardline Israeli nationalist as well as a shrewd political operator.

A few months ago, Mr Netanyahu was saying he would never meet Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, let alone deal with him. Now, in the words of the party manifesto, Likud "will recognise the facts created on the ground by the various accords and will act to reduce the dangers to the future and security of Israel resulting from these agreements."

Reducing the danger to Israel is more than a vague assurance. The manifesto, and Mr Netanyahu, are both full of suggestions about the improvement of Israel's relations with its Palestinian neighbours. The party aims to

reverse the present government's partial freeze on Jewish settlement in the occupied territories; it proposes to make the Jordan river Israel's eastern frontier, and it adamantly opposes the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

"Jewish settlements, security areas, water resources, state land, and road intersections in Judea, Samaria (the West Bank) and the Gaza Strip shall remain under full Israeli control," says the Likud manifesto. It promises that Israel's army will have full freedom of action in areas ostensibly ruled by the PLO.

In a similar spirit, Likud promises to conduct peace talks with Syria, "while maintaining Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights and its water resources".

Let anyone doubt that the conquests of 1967 will remain forever Israeli under Likud, Mr Netanyahu has bound himself into a close electoral alliance with the rightwing Thomet party, led by Rafael Eitan, the former hardline army chief, and with the small Geshet faction headed by David Levy, the hawkish former foreign minister.

Among his principal lieutenants in Likud is the most ardent hawk of the lot, Ariel Sharon, who as defence minister oversaw the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Some pundits say Mr Netanyahu's powerful allies could be the breaking of him. Even those voters who are alarmed by the past three years of pell-mell pursuit of peace, associate the Likud alliance with a past full of confrontation and bloodshed.

When Mr Netanyahu airily talks of reconvening the Madrid conference which gave birth to the peace process in 1991, he seems audibly to be turning the clock back to a darker era.

Revelling in his slick, hi-tech campaign, the Likud leader exudes a confidence which belies the fact that he is consistently second in the independent polls.

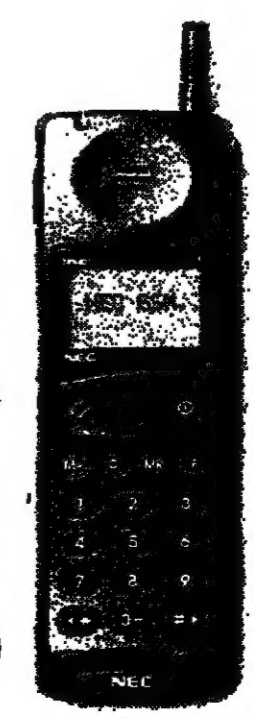
He has come within a whisker of power and, although aged just 46, this may be his only chance. In the fractious Likud, Mr Netanyahu has many enemies. Indeed, his best friend just may turn out to be Shimon Peres, visionary, adventurer and Israel's most consistent political loser.

A Funeral and 21 parties, page 17



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8 SPORTS NEWS

Racing

Dance Design for an Irish home win

Ron Cox

GUINEAS weekend in Ireland looks a mixed bag for the home team...

No Irish trainer has won the 2,000 Guineas since Vincent O'Brien in 1988...

With pacemaker Abir to help her, Matiya can come out best again...

But there is a question mark over the Guineas form at Newmarket...

won this Classic with 'Trusted Partner' in 1988 after a similar preparation...

Distant Oasis, who has been supplemented at a cost of IR£18,500...

Given an admirably enterprising ride by Olivier Peslier...

It says much for the colt's ability that he was able to get within a length of Ashkanani...

Bijou d'Inde went down with all guns blazing at Newmarket, although like Mark Of Esteem...

Sorbie Tower (4.05), at one stage thought likely to be supplemented for the Irish 2,000 Guineas...

Although he refused to be drawn into announcing a date, he stated it was 'highly likely'...

Willie Carson gave his broadest hint yet that retirement was imminent in a Radio 5 interview yesterday.



Carson... 'age had nothing to do with bloody awful Lingfield mistake.'

Carson gives hint of a Derby day retirement

WILLIE CARSON gave his broadest hint yet that retirement was imminent in a Radio 5 interview yesterday.

year career which has brought him five jockeys' championships and success in 14 English Classics.

Carson was clearly shaken by the events at Lingfield last weekend when, in dropping his hands on Kemari...

Kempton with TV form

Racing results table for Kempton including race numbers, names, and odds.

Doncaster with TV form

Racing results table for Doncaster including race numbers, names, and odds.

Curragh today Chan4

Racing results table for Curragh today including race numbers, names, and odds.

Curragh tomorrow BBC2

Racing results table for Curragh tomorrow including race numbers, names, and odds.

Lingfield tonight

Racing results table for Lingfield tonight including race numbers, names, and odds.

Channel 4

Racing results table for Channel 4 including race numbers, names, and odds.

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Haydock with form

Racing results table for Haydock with form including race numbers, names, and odds.

BBC-1

Racing results table for BBC-1 including race numbers, names, and odds.

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Results

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HAYDOCK

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NOTTINGHAM

Racing results table for NOTTINGHAM including race numbers, names, and odds.

Channel 4

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Racing results table for Channel 4 including race numbers, names, and odds.

Advertisement for Gunner for the first time, featuring a large image of a gun and promotional text.

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.



Vertical text on the left edge of the page, likely from an adjacent page or a sidebar.

Athletics

Gunnell set for the first hurdle

Duncan Mackay on the comeback of a champion

CLEARING hurdles is Sally Gunnell's business but none will have looked as high as the 10 she faces today. A comeback in jeans in her first 400 metres hurdles for nearly two years could make or break her ambition of successfully defending her Olympic title in Atlanta.



On her knees... Gunnell's training times match those of her world record year TOM JENKINS

Jackson the Welsh poacher turns gamekeeper

COLIN JACKSON will have three roles at the Welsh Games in his home town of Cardiff today, writes Duncan Mackay.

It was less than a year ago that Jackson was threatening to boycott British meetings this summer, yet he is now organising one in which he will be the main attraction.

And Jon Ridgeon, who are all turning up for nothing. Jackson the promoter has not done Jackson the competitor any favours by ignoring his own promotion.

Motor Cycling

Dixon spins a wheel with little on the side

Mark Redding on a British world champion who enjoys neither fame nor fortune

THE Tough of the Track would have understood in his Victor heyday Alf Tupper used to stay up until 5am in his workshop welding the gates he had promised to the local orphanage, jump on his bike, pedal 50 miles to an athletics meeting, strap on his plimsoles and then run some grinning foreigner into the ground.

After finishing work as a mechanic in a Kent motorcycle shop Darren Dixon throws his leathers into the back of a trailer, travels across Europe to a far-flung meeting, jumps on his bike and then runs some cocky foreigner into the ground. The difference is that Dixon is world champion and no one has heard of him.

championship round at Assen in the Netherlands. Dixon is not one to sit around and brood on the nature of fame. There is a mortgage to pay and three hungry children to feed. Even his wife has to work part-time as a childminder to pay the bills. "I'm not going to say how much I make in the shop," says Dixon. "Peanuts. You wouldn't believe it. Winning a world championship hasn't made me any money either," he says, laughing.



Balancing act... Dixon and Hetherington at Donington

"We've got this image that we're dirty, oily, horrible, smelly type of people and it's taken care of by the Swedish popularity to tail off. But we're on the way back up." Dixon claims, and he has a point: a crowd of 120,000 watched last year's world

Sport in brief

Equestrianism

Pippa Funnell, the winner of last year's Windsor International Horse Trials, began her defence of the title by finishing in first place on Marshland Rubic and third on Rainbow Magic after yesterday's dressage, writes John Kerr.

Geoff Hurst, England's 1966 World Cup striker, has questioned the Fifa president Joao Havelange's impartiality concerning the selection of the venue for the 2002 World Cup.

prefers Japan even though as president he is supposed to be impartial. It would be very disappointing if Japan got it just because of that," he said.

Soccer

Geoff Hurst, England's 1966 World Cup striker, has questioned the Fifa president Joao Havelange's impartiality concerning the selection of the venue for the 2002 World Cup.

Cycling

Pascal Hervé of France leads the Giro d'Italia after winning the sixth-day stage to Cantanaro. He overhauled Roberto Petito in the last 400 metres of the 179km ride from Crotone to win by four seconds and take the leader's pink jersey from Silvio Martinello.

Warwick tonight

Table of horse racing results for Warwick, including race numbers, names, and times.

Wolverhampton tonight (A.W.)

Table of horse racing results for Wolverhampton, including race numbers, names, and times.

Hexham National Hunt card

Table of horse racing results for Hexham National Hunt, including race numbers, names, and times.

Cartmel jumps programme

Table of horse racing results for Cartmel jumps programme, including race numbers, names, and times.

Warwick tonight (continued)

Continuation of Warwick horse racing results table.

Wolverhampton tonight (A.W.) (continued)

Continuation of Wolverhampton horse racing results table.

Hexham National Hunt card (continued)

Continuation of Hexham National Hunt horse racing results table.

Cartmel jumps programme (continued)

Continuation of Cartmel jumps programme horse racing results table.

Soccer

# Adams key to England back door

David Lacey in Hong Kong ponders a security question

REPORTERS wishing to contact England players at their hotel here yesterday were told that every caller must give a password in order to be put through. This password, of course, was not available to the media. Annoying though this swiftly rescinded restriction threatened to be, speculating on likely passwords was rewarding.

To gain access to the innermost thoughts of Dennis Wise, for example, did one have to cry "Taxi" to the switchboard operator? Would David Seaman bare all to the magic word "Nayim"? Perhaps Alan Shearer was longing to hear someone shout "Goal".

There are no prizes for guessing what word might have aroused Tony Adams. "Sweeper" in fact, might have been a more apposite choice than the braying alternative because Adams's role in the European Championship was the most urgent question to come out of England's 3-0 victory over China in Beijing on Thursday.

Adams came through the game with no reaction to his recently healed knee. From the point of view of experience and authority at the back this was good news for Terry Venables and England.

Arsenal's captain is surely a crucial figure in Euro 96. Nevertheless the success of his return, after Adams had not played a competitive match since mid-January following a cartilage operation, posed further questions about precisely how Venables intends to play his hand against Switzerland at Wembley a fortnight today.

Injuries to Adams, Gary Pallister and Steve Howey having threatened to deprive Venables of his traditional stopper centre-halves, he then recalled Mark Wright and switched to a three-man defence — a system, moreover, that did not merely involve using three centre-backs but saw Wright flanked by full-backs, Gary Neville and Stuart Pearce, against Croatia and Hungary.

Then Wright's knee injury forced him out of Euro 96, leaving Venables to seek if Adams was match-fit and

then to decide if he wanted to stick to a system for which many believed Wright, with his libero's tendencies, was the essential part.

In Beijing Adams began flanked by the Neville brothers with Gareth Southgate in Paul Ince's role at the back of midfield. But soon the numbers China threw forward forced Southgate to withdraw alongside Adams, which meant for most of the match England reverted to an orthodox back four.

Now Venables must decide if he can risk Adams in a three-man defence against the Swiss who, through the likes of Sforza, will be markedly better equipped than China to exploit gaps that might open up around the Arsenal defender. Ince will be expected to support the defence but this still leaves open the question of how comfortable Adams is likely to be in such a system once the sparring has stopped.

Adams and Southgate looked a well-balanced pair in the Workers' Stadium but the only way Venables could accommodate the Aston Villa player would be by removing one of his five midfielders, with David Platt the obvious choice. The England captain's return has seen more changes of ownership this season than Nell Gwyn's garter, but this would be a drastic step.

Adams remains confident he can satisfy whatever demands may be made of him. "I feel quite confident playing in a three-man system," he declared yesterday. "People may wonder if I can do it but I really don't give a monkey. I can only give my answer on the pitch."

At least Adams, having proved his fitness to Venables's satisfaction, can be reasonably sure of making the cut when the England coach announces his final squad of 22. Nick Barnby, on the other hand, knows his two goals against China will merely prolong the suspense.

Barnby's return to form has increased speculation that he might make a late run for the squad place at present allotted to Peter Beardsley, who is 13 years his senior. "I don't want to go into that," said Venables last night.

"I feel very good and very sharp," said Barnby, "which is important, because my game's based on sharpness. I've either got to create chances or take them."

## Visit the monks of Fuggles Abbey.

SEE the Waxworks in the old shed at the back of the brewery and imagine what life could have been like if there were monks and an abbey.



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Three into two won't go... Stallard, left, with Ormondroyd and Shutt, front-line rivals at Bradford

### Endsleigh League play-offs: the final showdown

## Bradford on an upswing

David Hopps charts the club's fluctuating passage to face Notts County at Wembley

EVEN in Wembley play-offs week life for Bradford City has been as rigorous as ever. The old Midland Road stand will be demolished next week but it is not about to be smashed to smithereens with a brazen prediction of better times ahead. Instead it will be carefully dismantled and transported to Barrow, where one of the Football League's former members have paid \$5,000 for the dubious privilege of re-erecting it.

In 93 seasons Bradford have never played at Wembley but tomorrow they face Notts County in the Second Division play-off final, a pairing resonant of bygone days. Bradford won the FA Cup final in 1911 and became the first winners of the present trophy but the game was played at Crystal Palace, followed by a replay at Old Trafford.

In those days the players probably trained on Yorkshire pudding and pints of ale. Last Monday their successors were told they would be on a pasta and mineral water diet in London for fear of high temperatures. Northerners believe it is always warm and sunny down south.

Bradford's manager Chris Kamara must wonder how they have managed it. Their league season began with seven wins in their first 15 matches, a record which caused Lennie Lawrence to be sacked in November.

Kamara was installed in his place but by mid-February

things were still going badly and Bradford were lying 11th. Their refusal to concede, however, was never better exemplified than when they lost 2-0 to Blackpool in the home leg of their play-off semi-final but recovered to win 3-0 at Bloomfield Road.

"Kamara was so overcome that he stripped to the waist, placing himself somewhere between a track-suit manager and a birthday-suit manager. Realisation had suddenly dawned. There was barely time to order the suits, which was a relief to the more fashion-conscious members of the squad. "At least this way we've ended up with navy blue," said one as they were doled out on Wednesday. "Imagine having to wear the all-claret job."

One man not afraid to proclaim his part in Bradford's improvement is their outspoken chairman Geoffrey Richmond. He took over in January 1994 — having tired of Scarborough's small-town provincialism — and complained of the club's "acceptance of mediocrity".

Within three months a host of sackings had included the chief executive David Clayton and the manager Frank Stapleton. By then Richmond's assessment had been upped to selflessness and self-interest. In fact, he said, the club was rotten to the core.

A catalyst on the field has been Mark Stallard, a £120,000 signing from Derby County at the turn of the year, whose 10 goals included the winner

against Blackpool. His striking partner at Wembley remains uncertain, and two old stagers, Carl Shutt and Ian Ormondroyd, are privately, and a little uncomfortably, hoping luck will fall their way.

Ormondroyd is a Bradford lad, hailing from Great Horton, now a deprived suburb. He was once sold to Aston Villa for \$850,000 by the manager Terry Dolan a few minutes before he was fired. A spindly 6ft 5in striker, who prefers to operate wide on the left, The Big O has attracted so much mockery that he would happily sign up Jason Lee's publicity manager.

He is pessimistic about making Bradford's line-up, having been dropped for the return leg against Blackpool. "If I was one of the 11 I'd be devastated if I wasn't selected."

But he was part of the Aston Villa side which finished second in the old First Division in 1990 under Graham Taylor and he knows Wembley like no other Bradford player after three play-offs for Leicester.

Shutt is three years older at

## Vialli and Futre seek good old days

Michael Thorpe

TWO of Europe's best-known footballing names swapped the lure of the fire for the pull of the pound yesterday when Gianluca Vialli joined Chelsea and Paulo Futre moved to West Ham.

On the same day Bordeaux's 24-year-old midfielder Zinedine Zidane, previously linked with Blackburn and Arsenal, joined Juventus to show that the Premiership has some way to go to attract top European players who are neither old, crooked nor outcasts.

But the excitement generated by the arrival of Vialli and Futre will be reflected in the millions they generate in season-ticket and replica-shirt sales.

Vialli, 32 in July, is joining Chelsea on a free transfer, in a three-year deal earning the shaven-headed striker more than £1 million a season. He scored 123 goals in 325 Italian league games and 16 goals in 33 internationals and became Chelsea's second former world-record transfer-fee holder — alongside his friend and new manager Ruud Gullit — 24 hours after lifting the European Cup for Juventus.

"I hope so but I'm not sure. But I think we can take a good position in the league."

He will live in London with his girlfriend. "London is the best city in Europe and maybe the world," he said. His home debut will be in a benefit game for Steve Clarke on August 11.

Futre, also a free agent, is expected to receive more than £1 million a season in a two-year deal at West Ham. However, he played only one game for Milan last season because of a knee injury.

Farnham have agreed to sell Rangers their Portuguese international defender Fernando Couto for £2.8 million but the player will wait to decide on the move until after the European Championship.

West Ham have also revived interest in signing the Bournemouth midfielder Scott Meen for £750,000.

The troubled Nottingham Forest striker Jason Lee could move to Oxford United in exchange for the forward Chris Allan plus £250,000. Forest are also eager to sell the midfield Italian striker Andrei Silvestri to help finance a move for the Galatasaray striker Dean Saunders. The Forest goalkeeper Mark Crossley has signed a new four-year deal.

"That was the best night in my career," he said, "not in my life but for football the best. Now I am happy to come to England because I like London and I like Chelsea. I hope I can win again something of importance."

Asked if he felt Chelsea really could win something, Vialli was more circumspect.

## Goram rocked by injury curse

Patrick Glenn in Connecticut

THE international curse that has restricted Andy Goram's Scotland appearances to 20 minutes in the past 18 months seems to have followed him 3,000 miles across the Atlantic. The Rangers goalkeeper has a hip strain and will miss tomorrow's match against the United States.

Rest of the squad travelled to Madison Square Garden in New York as guests of Rod Stewart at the rocker's concert. The Chelsea forward's calf muscle troubles him while travelling.

Goram's is a similar problem. "Sitting on a bus, even for a short trip, Andy feels the hip tighten and he gets a little pain," said Brown. "We thought it was best to leave him at the hotel."

Goram last started an international in December 1994 — a European qualifier in which he sustained the leg injury that forced him to miss the rest of the series. Since then he has played 20 minutes as a substitute in a friendly in Sweden last October.

Scotland's coach Craig Brown assured reporters in Hartford yesterday that Goram will be fit for Wednesday's match against Colombia in Miami. But his apparently endless problems are beginning to plant doubts about his readiness for the European Championship.

Goram tweaked his hip in last Saturday's Scottish Cup final against Hearts. It is an injury he has had before and he has not been able to train properly. He was left behind with John Spencer in Hartford on Thursday night when

Brown had intended playing Goram and Jim Leighton of Hibernian in equal measure during this mini-tour, either for 45 minutes each in both games or giving each man a full match. Now he has no decision to make — at least about tomorrow.

Leighton, 38 in July and Scotland's most capped goalkeeper with 73 appearances, will start his 12th consecutive international at the appropriately named Veterans' Stadium in New Britain on the outskirts of Hartford.

Brown also hinted that Gary McAllister, his captain, may not play the full 90 minutes against the Americans. "As I've said before, we know what players like Gary, Colin Collins and Stuart McColl can do," said Brown. "I'm considering playing him for part of the match to keep him ticking over."

### EURO 96: John Duncan looks at where the money will go in June and finds that the FA can expect only a modest dividend

## Eastern Europe to reap the net benefits

WHEN Euro 96 organisers use the word net, they probably mean receipts rather than onion bags and, when they talk about goals, you will find them looking at the bottom line rather than at the forwards. For the three-week tournament that kicks off in a fortnight's time is a huge business enterprise involving hundreds of millions of pounds.

Oddly the Football Association, which is hosting the tournament, will be lucky to break even from the three-tickets sporting event in the world. In fact more of the money made from Euro 96 will end up supporting the grass roots of the game in eastern Europe than in England, the organisers said yesterday.

While the FA is aiming for a moderate profit Uefa, the European governing body, could make up to £50 million, much of it given to an eastern Europe fund.

"Uefa is assigning any balance from the tournament to a special fund for the development of the game in Europe," said a Euro 96 spokesman yesterday.

There has been widespread confusion as to how the FA will make a maximum profit of only £1.5 million from this massive event but the reason for the poor return is the formula Uefa has devised for distributing revenue, and the tax regime in the United Kingdom.

The first claim on the estimated ticket sales of £50 million is from the Government, which will charge 17.5 per cent VAT on every ticket. That means the Treasury will rake in about £2.75 million from ticket sales alone — more than the FA, which will receive only 20 per cent of the net figure — about £7.5 million.

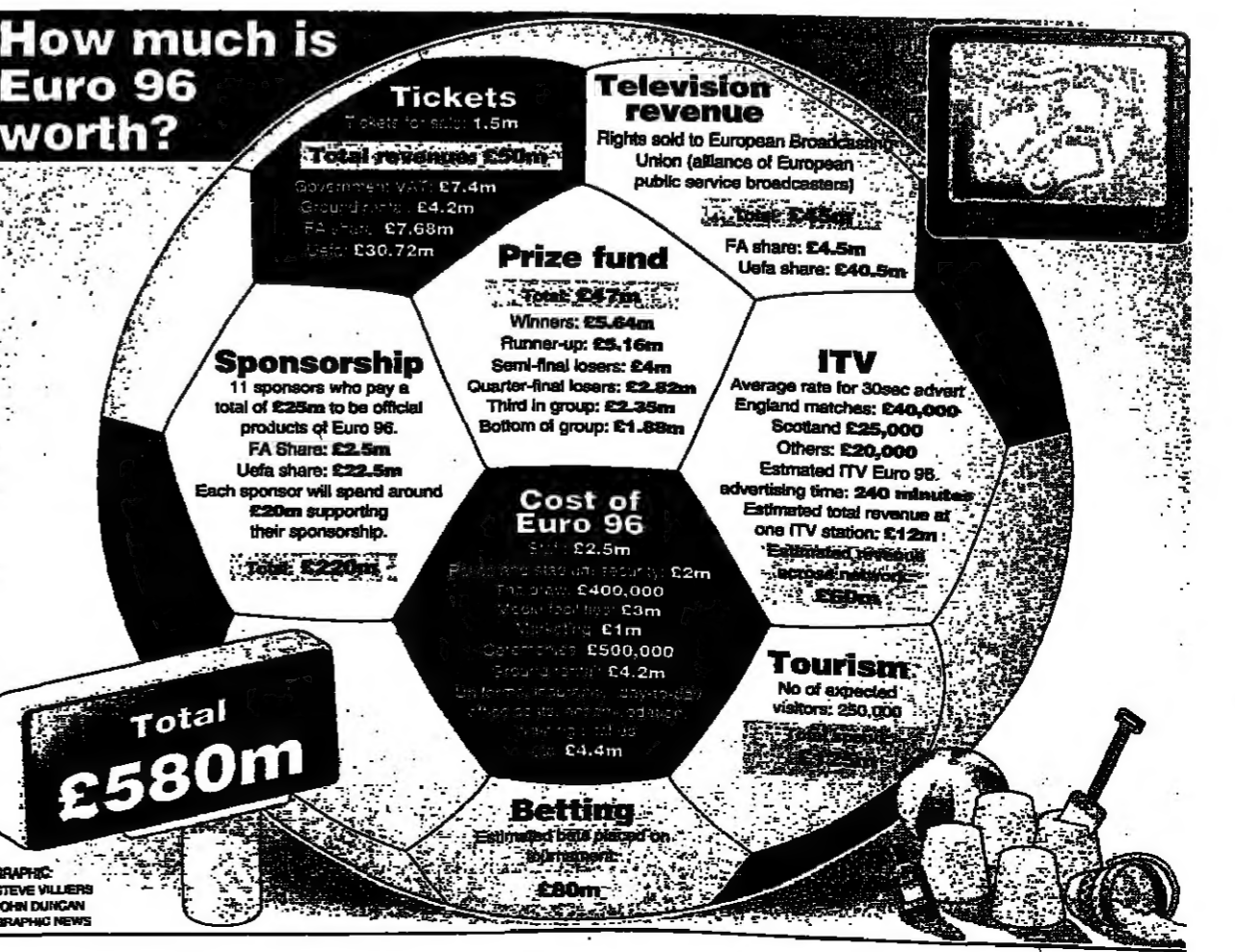
There is a similar deal over television rights — worldwide rights go to 194 countries, more than the 1994 World Cup — and sponsorship: both are split 10 per cent to the FA, 90 per cent to Uefa.

The estimated additional £200 million sponsors will spend promoting their association makes this a huge marketing exercise with a real financial impact on Britain.

Betting firms will coin it in during Euro 96 too to the tune of £80 million. "That makes it the biggest betting event ever," said Ian Wessel of Ladbrokes. "It should beat the last World Cup by about £20 million."

Not to be forgotten are the TV companies with prices for a 30-second commercial during an England game on London Weekend Television starting at £50,000.

Meanwhile the FA has to pay the £18 million bill for staging the tournament out of its profits. Uefa's only worry is the £47 million prize fund — with £5.4 million going to the winners.



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Golf

David Davies sees the green-jacket holder set the pace at a dank and slippery Wentworth

Faldo takes out double indemnity

NICK FALDO, indisputably Europe's finest, is attempting to do twice that which even the best of his colleagues have only done once.

While on the subject of bustling things, Faldo revealed that prior to holing in one at The Old Course last week a spectator had urged him to "back it in the 'ole'".

No, I don't mean that. I'm getting my fair share of publicity and since I've been back here everyone has been great.

No sooner had he dropped another ball than a gust of wind did the original well within the five minutes allowed.

on the 35th green, 2 and 1. If Lyle needs an incentive to play better this week, it would be the memory of that distant match, plus the fact that this week he has 54 holes to catch his rival, rather than the 18 he had in 1993.

Yesterday morning most of the nation's papers carried critical comments by Frank Nobilo about the on-course behaviour of Gordon Sherry during the Benson and Hedges event last week on his professional debut.



Ballesteros... up a tree

was all the better for him having been three over after three holes, demonstrated once again that people prefer to shoot the messenger rather than heed the message.

Cricket

Watery defeat for both sides

Mike Selvey at The Oval

THE first one-day international duly reached its watery stalemate at four o'clock yesterday afternoon when the umpires could no longer avoid what had been obvious all day.

17.1 had been bowled when play stopped on Thursday. So from the minimum of further balls needed for a result, India would have required only 80 runs with five wickets in hand.

Under the circumstances it would be a surprise if England did not field the same XI this morning for, if there were individual failures in what was heading towards a good team performance - Alistair Brown, in particular, but also Ronnie Irani - there is no reason to suggest they do not deserve another chance.

One man who has given himself a head start already this summer, though, is Chris Lewis, who batted with authority and bowled with fire and spirit on a pitch that gave him a very good start.

There was no doubt that he would be made Man of the Match and he will be presented with the award before today's game. "It has been a nice start," said Lewis yesterday, "and it gives me something to build on. I have to agree with people who say that I am unfulfilled at international level because I have not achieved what I want."

Derbyshire chairman urges action against Illingworth

DERBYSHIRE'S chairman Mike Horton has officially pressed the Test and County Cricket Board's disciplinary committee to take "strong action" against England's chairman of selectors, Raymond Illingworth, following his renewed criticism of the county's first writer Devon Malcolm, writes David Hopps.

being attacked in print by the man responsible for picking the England team and that can't be right," he said. "I think it was possible yesterday, but Yorkshire's Richard Blakey registered his 10,000th first-class run during 19 overs played at Canterbury. He was 56 not out - his first half-century in two seasons - when the players ran for cover with Yorkshire on 330 for seven.

HOLDER GIVEN GO-AHEAD FOR THE FRENCH OPEN



Waiting game... Thomas Muster is hoping for 24 hours' grace and a Tuesday start on the clay courts of Roland Garros

Fit Muster put on red alert

Stephen Bierley on why Paris is waiting agog for developments in court circles

THE question was deceptively innocuous. "Tell us, Thomas, who is the first person you want to phone on such an occasion?" Thomas Muster, having just retained his Italian Open title, allowed himself a rare and knowing smile and replied that, if he rang up all those he wanted to tell about his victories, he would never be able to afford the mobile telephone bill.

with the death of his coach Tim Gullikson, Muster was a clear favourite to retain his French title. "This would have read 'Is a clear favourite' but on Thursday morning the man who is obsessed by fitness turned his smile while practising at his home tournament in St Polten in Austria. He said yesterday he was fit but a doubt must remain. Muster has visited Helmut Obermoser, the doctor at the St Polten tournament, who said yesterday: "The inflammation has virtually subsided. Muster will play 100 per cent in Paris."

Open champion in 1993 and 1994. "He played better than anyone over the year, and that's what counts." "Champion indeed. But what everybody still really wants to know is whether Muster's infatuation with red-clay titles is in anyway matched by his attraction to a certain titled, red-headed lady, Roland Garros, to say nothing of Wimbledon, is agog.

Muster's career was in severe peril seven years ago when, not long after reaching the semi-finals of the Australian Open, and having reached the final of the Lipton Tournament in Key Biscayne, both on hard courts, he was struck by a drunken driver in Miami. He had surgery on severed left-knee ligaments and, as testament to the man's willpower, was playing again within six months. It is possible, indeed probable, that this injury made the Austrian even more determined to succeed.

Hockey

Reid reacts to limit Argentina

Patrick Rowley

THE England women's team were beaten only 1-0 by Argentina at Lillehall yesterday despite the absence of their many Great Britain players for the first of two internationals against the World Cup finalists.

ber of novice internationals facing high-class opposition for the first time, were handicapped when Lisa Bayliss, one of their more experienced players, injured an ankle and could not return until midway through the second half. England engineered only one real chance when Leicester's Kirsty Bowden combined with the promising Jackie Empson of Canterbury, but Lucy Newcombe was off balance and shot wide.

Scoreboard

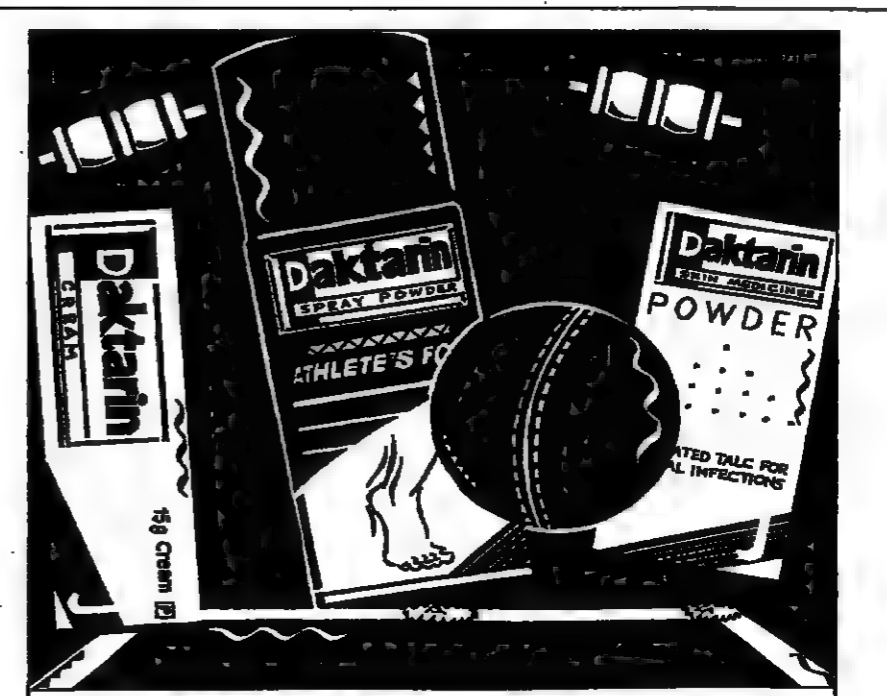
Table with columns for various sports events and scores, including County Championship, One-Day Internationals, and Test matches.

Table with columns for various sports events and scores, including County Championship, One-Day Internationals, and Test matches.

Shoulder injury forces Seles out

MONICA SELES, complaining of a strained left shoulder, yesterday scratched from her Spanish Open semi-final against Jana Novotna.

Seles said she had been suffering from the problem for the past four months. The joint world No. 1 wants to rest the shoulder for next week's French Open, where she has not lost a match since 1989.



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Dance Design for Irish home win, page 8

Tracking the Euro 96 millions, page 10

Gunnell back on the Olympic trail, page 9

Muster prepares his Paris defence, page 11

# SportsGuardian

FALDO WARMS TO HIS TASK AT A DAMP AND CHILLY WENTWORTH



Synchronised wedding... Nick Faldo, the US Master of Augusta, and Stephen Ames, the recent Benson & Hedges International winner at Thame, get down to a spot of gardening on the 14th green during the first round of the Volvo PGA Championship at Wentworth, where Faldo set the pace with a 67. David Davies reports, page 11. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARNHART

Twickenham breathes a sigh of relief as England's leading clubs agree a power-sharing package

## Rugby averts breakaway

Robert Armstrong on the last-gasp deal that ended a protracted dispute

ENGLAND'S leading clubs last night agreed to a peace agreement with the Rugby Football Union which will give them a major share of power in the running of domestic and cross-border competitions from next season. The deal, hammered out at day-long talks by the RFU's full 63-man committee at London's Hilton Hotel, is a significant policy defeat for union traditionalists, who have attempted to prevent the clubs gaining greater control. Crucially the RFU has agreed that the clubs must in future be signatories to all TV and sponsorship agreements covering competitions in which they take part in effect the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) have won the right to veto elements in any new contract they believe are not in their best interests. The clubs also pulled off an important coup in convincing the RFU there should be no relegation from Courage League One for the season just ended. That means Saracens and West Hartlepool (who lost all their 18 league games) stay up and Northampton and London Irish, promoted from League Two, join them to increase the top flight to 13 clubs. England's international commitments have been formally recognised by the clubs, who have agreed that players must be released for England duty on seven or eight weekends each season. Players will also have the right to attend squad training sessions deemed necessary by the England management even if they take place at weekends. Players' contracts will be held by the clubs provided the necessary safeguards for international release agreed with the RFU are built into the detailed terms. The players themselves will be the main beneficiaries of this arrangement which should, in theory at least, prevent a club-country conflict. The format of European Cup and Anglo-Welsh competitions for next season has been agreed by Epruc and Twickenham. The new season will almost certainly begin on August 24,

probably with a charity shield-type game between the English and Welsh league champions, Bath and Neath, at Twickenham. The Courage League programme proper will start on August 31, with around 10 to 13 games being completed before the European Cup starts in late October. Cliff Brittle, chairman of the RFU executive committee, claimed there were "no winners and losers" after four months of negotiations, but few RFU members will be in any doubt that the clubs have flexed their muscles and to all intents and purposes brought home the bacon. Brittle insisted the protracted negotiations had been necessary to achieve a working compromise that was fair to both sides. An Epruc delegation which included Donald Kerr (Leicester), Peter Wheeler (Leicester) and Sir John Hall (Newcastle) made a forceful declaration of their demands at yesterday's emergency meeting which was, apparently, heard by the full committee in polite silence. Distribution of TV income, the future structure of all club competitions and the primacy over players' contracts were the main topics Epruc presented for review. Bill Bishop, the RFU president described the deal as an "historic agreement" which owed its existence to the "hard work" of Brittle and the Epruc chairman Donald Kerr. The formal resolution put together by the RFU in conjunction with Epruc agreed the following fundamental points: ● 1. The RFU must remain the ultimate governing body of the game in England and have ultimate control. ● 2. The England XV must be of the greatest possible strength and all players in England should have the opportunity of playing for it. ● 3. All RFU member clubs should abide by the regulations and bylaws of the RFU and the International Board. ● 4. All RFU member clubs should play only in competitions approved by the RFU. ● 5. All RFU member clubs

should have the opportunity to progress to the highest level in the game by promotion from lower levels. ● 6. The RFU must be responsible for the development of the game in England. ● 7. The ongoing interdependence between the senior clubs and the RFU should be reflected in a contractual arrangement governing TV and sponsorship rights, player availability, the structured season and the management of competitions. Bill Bishop, the RFU president described the deal as an "historic agreement" which owed its existence to the "hard work" of Brittle and the Epruc chairman Donald Kerr. The formal resolution put together by the RFU in conjunction with Epruc agreed the following fundamental points: ● 1. The RFU must remain the ultimate governing body of the game in England and have ultimate control. ● 2. The England XV must be of the greatest possible strength and all players in England should have the opportunity of playing for it. ● 3. All RFU member clubs should abide by the regulations and bylaws of the RFU and the International Board. ● 4. All RFU member clubs should play only in competitions approved by the RFU. ● 5. All RFU member clubs



Brittle... 'no losers'

## England fret in the rain

FROM persistent rain at The Oval to a sea fret that stopped racing at Brighton, the English summer yesterday reduced to a rumour. England suffered most as rain swept much of the cricket programme away. They were denied the

chance to go 1-0 up in the three-match Texaco one-day series against India when the match was abandoned just after 3pm. The teams had waited in vain for the weather to clear in line with the forecast. India had been in with a chance too. Despite being reduced to 96 for five in

reply to England's 291 for eight, they needed only 47 runs from 7.5 overs to win because after 25 overs a result would have depended on run rate. The teams meet back-to-back, weather permitting, at Headingley and Old Trafford today and tomorrow. Mike Selvey, page 11

**In Hanover I saw a woman growl and grab a bronze by its buttocks. She wore a necklace that looked like it was made from the molars of her former lovers.**  
Fiachra Gibbons

Outlook page 18

## Bringing back more than memories



David Lacey

SOMEHOW the parable of the Great Wall summed up the questionable virtues of England's decision to play in China and Hong Kong with the European Championship so close. The players took the wrong turning and exhausted themselves making the climb on foot. Members of the FA's international committee, never ones to miss a trick or treat, went the right way and coasted up by cable-car. It was ever thus. Twenty years ago, during the 1976 American Bicentennial Tournament, the chairman of the FA at the time, Sir Andrew Stephen, led a delegation to Disneyland and was met by Mickey Mouse. Later a more caustic member of the press corps trusted that Mr Mouse had not been diminished by the experience. In Beijing on Wednesday Terry Venables met Michael Heseltine. Whether either found the experience diminishing we will never know.

Why are we all here in the Far East, where Beijing has been hot enough for footballers in training, never mind Hong Kong's stifling combination of heat and humidity? Reports that the FA received US\$250,000 for England to play in the Workers' Stadium on Thursday, added to the rumours of the \$400,000 guaranteed for tomorrow's stroll against a Hong Kong XI, have confirmed one's original impression, namely that this expedition is an exercise with strong fiscal undertones. It should be stressed that these figures are rumours, although the Beijing amount was provided by the game's main sponsors, the Wei-Wei Group. Venables has brushed off the financial aspects of the tour as "not important". Not to him, maybe, but it is still an eccentric way to prepare for a tournament in England. In addition, Venables had

the aggravation of flying to Beijing to inspect the pitch before his chief scout, Ted Buxton, travelled on ahead of the main party to make sure that the Chinese were making the necessary improvements. Seldom can more air miles have been accumulated for the sake of a surface which turned out to be no worse than Villa Park on a bad day. Betsey, if anything.

Short of England bringing home a bag marked "swag" there is no way of knowing whether the unworthy thoughts which have been expressed about the real motives for this trip are anything more than media cynicism. Yet watching the England squad being mobbed by airport staff while they waited for their luggage at Hong Kong airport yesterday it was hard to avoid recalling Graham Taylor's approach to the 1992 Championship, when he took his players to Finland and closed them with a psychologist for three weeks. Everything, of course, will be judged with the hindsight of England's success or failure in Euro 96. Taylor's relaxed, psychologically-correct team were dire in Sweden and David Platt is still the only England player to have scored a goal in six years of major tournaments. Should Alan Shearer's international drought come to a spectacular end at Wembley in a fortnight's time presumably it will be put down to the bamboo shoots.

AT LEAST in China England learned how the other half lives. Impressive though the Workers' Stadium might look, the dressing rooms do not even have pegs, and the players' toilets are of a type that demand total concentration accompanied by the Dam Busters' March. Beijing turned out to be on a par with Eastern Europe in the Seventies—staters, certainly, but neatly-dressed in an inexpensive way, with the bicycle keeping its end up against the car. However, the policeman who arrested a postcard seller in Tiananmen Square and the security guards who tried to hustle reporters out of the Workers' Stadium were reminders of what a hard-line country could still be like. China, thwarted in an Olympic bid, is nowhere near ready for a World Cup.

## Guardian COLLINS Crossword 20,662

A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,662, P.O. Box 315, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday June 3.

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Set by Araucaria

**Across**

- See policeman Frost about painting Northern Ireland gang member (7,2,5)
- Guide to party of rose and lily (7)
- Win for chestnut, say (7)
- Way out—in again (5)
- Genuine gold, so you get a lot of credit (8)
- It helps with having babies if wed; otherwise, without, it's filthy (9)
- Increase not great for organist (5)
- A profit on the other hand (5)
- Contemporary sound of circus 0 kilometre off (4,5)
- Fit to live in robe with competence (9)
- In robe I rather like African port (5)
- Fox dealing with pole in garden? (7)
- Struggle with filer in front of box? (7)
- Enter, with bell and chain, crook associated with young sh-sheep (8,5)

**Down**

- On edge, I abandon faith in investigative journalist's colonists (7,7)
- Change of love, going to be up in the circle (7)
- Wood for the Beatles struck Ringo anaw (9)

**COLLINS ENGLISH DICTIONARY**

4 Aggressive behaviour of a politician in fury (7)  
5 Ironic congratulation for precision about king (4,3)  
6 Hills as far as one can go (5)  
7 Little time to set free copper with horse (7)  
8 Fool the French horse to revive the battery (7,7)  
14 Note not detached when English verb turns up (9)  
16 Wood for a man upset about a little one (7)  
17 Half capital, half buried, raised by drum beat (3-1-3)  
18 Herb, dear to the French, almost worthless (7)  
19 Ascent followed by descent parody about most of life (3-4)  
24 Practise the following to get on life (5)

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# The Guardian Outlook

## Is this the way we want it?

**Behind Michael Howard's clash with the judges lies his obsession with US lock-'em-up justice, says ALAN RAVIS. Right: IAN KATZ in New York on the nightmare ahead**

Britain's worst Home Secretary for 40 years, the charge that his "get tough" sentencing package has been stolen wholesale from America is not even a matter for debate. "I am not simply copying what has been done there," Michael Howard protests. "I am putting in place some very carefully targeted measures which learn from the experience of the United States."

This "new improved" British version of the American prison nightmare Howard is so keen to promote appears to stem more from a lifetime's love affair with the US than from any study of the criminal justice system.

"To say that imprisoning people has no worked simply flies in the face of the fact," he says.

Yet since he took office three years ago, Howard has ignored his own Home Office research which says the "incarceration effect" is so small that we need to increase the prison population by 25 per cent to cut crime by just 1 per cent. Instead of following this logic, he has advocated a range of IS imports, including the introduction of boot camps and electronic tagging. At one point he even considered changing the name of the Probation Service to the Corrections Agency.

Sister deputy, Michael Forsyth, now Scottish Secretary, is introducing his own version of the Alabama chain gang.

Hasn't stopped there. American private prison companies have started to operate in Britain with Howard's encouragement. The Florida-based Wackenhut Corrections Corporation last week opened their new immigration detention centre at Gatwick Airport. The Corrections Corporation of America is already running British prisons.

So what is there in Howard's sentencing package that supports his contention that he is borrowing the "best of America's penal policies" and improving them? The principal measure is the introduction of mandatory minimum sentences which are meant to severely punish the career criminal.

The second major US import is the imposition of an antonastic life sentence on those who are convicted of a second serious violent or sex crime. In the baseball terminology now being used to describe these things, this is "two strikes and you're out".

The baseball point is a clue to why Howard is so enthusiastic about all aspects of the American criminal justice system. His answer is simply that he is a Yankeeophile. His Who's Who entry lists his recreations as baseball (the New York Mets, who he gets to see at least once a summer).

While sitting in New York's Shea Stadium, it will not have escaped his notice that a "get tough" agenda has proved wildly popular among the electorate there. There's hardly an elected official left in the US who dares not embrace the slogan "Prison works."

So Howard presses on, hoping for the same populist results in Britain to help his beleaguered friend, John Major. The alarm bells, however, have started to ring at the highest levels of the Home Office. Already the prison population is at a record 54,461. In the last 17 years the Tory government has built 22 new prisons. Howard's plans will require another 22.

It will be a massive building programme. Now that the Channel tunnel is completed this new generation of prisons, costing billions, is set to become the largest single construction project underway in Britain.

The judges are out of touch with the public, "is the Government's justification. But if opinion polls are in the future to be the only guiding light for criminal justice policy in Britain, as Howard argues, what then? Who will be able to resist pressure for the final "get tough" reform—the return of the hangman's noose?



Captive nation: 1.5 million people are now packed into US prisons. The Home Secretary believes crime will fall here too if we lock up enough people. PHOTOGRAPH BY FRIENTLEY

**'Prison does work. I want to make sure prison is a place where prisoners spend their time in active demanding regimes.'**  
MICHAEL HOWARD

**'I have an old-fashioned view — that prison works.'**  
JOHN MAJOR

## Bull market in prisons and knee-jerk politics

A NEW BREED of commodity trader has emerged in the corridors of America. Like their counterparts dealing in pork bellies, they seek to match producers making too much with consumers who can't get enough. Only the nature of the commodity they deal in is different. It is prisoners.

Right now, Texas is importing. The state has just completed a massive prison-building spree and, for a few months at least, it has spare cells. It needs to fill them or thousands of jobs will be at risk. So "prisoner placement consultants" have found inmates from Colorado and Oregon, where the jails are filled to bursting.

On the face of it, the convict trade makes good sense. Why should cells stand empty while inmates in states like Arizona and New Jersey languish in tents? America, quite simply, is sending people to jail quicker than it can build new ones.

For two decades, US politicians in search of quick, politically saleable solutions to crime have vied to pass laws putting more villains in jail for longer. Obsessed throughout the 1980s with its war on drugs, the federal government concentrated on ensuring that petty drug criminals would remain behind bars as long as many rapists or murderers. For their part, the States came up with snappy variations on the mandatory sentencing theme such as California's three-strikes-and-you're-out law, under which anyone convicted

of a third major crime must serve 25 to 100 years.

The sporting allusion is apt, for prison is rapidly displacing baseball as America's national pastime. In December the US surpassed Russia for the first time as the world's number-one jailer with 565 out of every 100,000 Americans behind bars. (Britain locks up around 100.) The population of America's new corrections archipelago is exploding at a rate that would embarrass most Third World countries. Federal and state jails are packed with almost 1.5 million inmates, more than double the total in 1968. Texas alone has more prisoners than the entire country had in 1948.

Inside America's overcrowded prisons, the temperature is mounting. They gave up long ago on the national target of one prisoner to a cell. In California, among the most gungho in sentencing, the prisons are stuffed with almost double the number of inmates they were built for.

It is not as though prison authorities have not tried to keep up. The last two decades have seen the biggest prison-building boom in history. California, which built 17 jails in 15 years, has seen prison spending balloon from 2 per cent of the state budget to almost 10 per cent. The Governor of Washington offers a grim prediction: if his state continues to build prisons at the rate it is going, every Washingtonian will either be working in a jail or held in

one by the year 2006. America's prison fever has an economic momentum of its own. Small, cash-strapped towns compete to build new jails "on spec", confident that the nation's "get tough" mood will fill them and bring jobs and prosperity. Corporate giants like American Express and General Electric invest billions in companies that run private prisons.

For the federal and state governments, however, the prison boom looks more like a bust. For the first time last year, California spent more on prisons than on higher education. The comparison is more than a curiosity because many states are looking their education coffers to build jails. According to a study by the Rand Corporation, California will spend 18 per cent of its state budget on prisons by the year 2000 if it continues to lock up its residents with such zeal. That would leave just 1 per cent for universities.

Advocates of mandatory sentencing argue it is a price worth paying to make America safer. With crime figures falling across the country — precipitously in cities like New York — lock-'em-up politicians like California's Governor Pete Wilson have been quick to claim the credit. But criminologists are divided over who or what is really winning the war against crime. Some suggest shifting demographics (fewer of those dangerous 18 to 25s) and changing drug preferences (less crack) have more to do with it than

packed prisons. The triumphalism of the hard time brigade is dampened by a widespread consensus among penologists that America is locking up the wrong people. Critics argue that the state and federal systems are being forced to release violent criminals to accommodate the frequently non-violent ones handed long prison terms under mandatory sentencing laws. In Florida, for instance, a profusion of heavy drug sentences means other criminals get out quicker; the average Florida prisoner serves just 41 per cent of his term.

The swamping of the federal prison system with comparatively petty offenders convicted under draconian anti-drug laws is the most striking result of the vogue for mandatory sentencing. Drug offenders now account for almost two-thirds of the federal prison population. Widespread criticism of the drug laws by judges (and even the refusal of several to hear cases under them) has not dampened the federal government's enthusiasm for sentencing by formula: the sweeping anti-crime bill passed last year includes a federal three-strikes law to match those already in force in more than a dozen states, as well as \$12.2 billion to build more prisons.

California's experiment with baseball justice hardly inspires confidence, however. Eight out of 10 of those locked up under the new law were convicted of non-violent offences on their second and third

strikes. Manual Penn, a 29-year-old convicted of shoplifting is not untypical. His \$25,000 bail will cost him 25 years to life because of three earlier convictions for armed robbery.

Meanwhile, California's judicial system is creaking under the pressure. Because of the higher stakes involved, potential third strike defendants are demanding jury trials in far greater numbers. Since July 1994, 47 of the state's 125 civil courts have been pressed into action to hear criminal cases, creating a years-long backlog of civil litigation. There are other, less easily quantifiable, concerns. Los Angeles Police chief Willie Williams has suggested that a spate of shootings of police officers reflects an increased desperation of potential three strikes defendants to avoid arrest.

While most US lawmakers have contented themselves with finding ways to put more people behind bars, others have devoted themselves to the parallel crusade of making prison life more unpleasant. The return of chain gangs to Alabama last year was one reflection of a wider move to make hard time just that. The US Congress is currently debating the No Frills Prison Act, a bill designed to achieve "the elimination of luxurious prison conditions". At the same time several states have passed so-called "truth in sentencing" laws aimed at keeping inmates in jail longer. Don't worry about selling those prison shares just yet.

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A divorce bill to embrace

IS THERE going to be a divorce over the divorce bill? Until now, Labour has supported the main thrust of the Government's proposals...

tors — unlike divorce barristers — have a good track record of support for divorce reform. Labour's legal affairs spokesman, Paul Boateng, has already described the revised package as "a dog's dinner"...

constitute sufficient grounds for sinking the biggest reform of divorce in 26 years. Moreover, some of the changes which prompted the withdrawal of lawyers' support, were supported by Labour in committee...

Nature and the beast

THE Chelsea Flower show has been notable this week for gardeners using hair driers to trick their blooms into flower. Cricketers have shivered, common flowers and native trees are more than a month behind and a walk in Britain this bank holiday may be to risk frostbite...

(notice the numbe of droughts in the past five years) is said to be an unnatural force in the land and Nature, so the Howard Hypothesis goes rebelling against him much as a boy tries to reject a foreign object lodged within...



Slight justice is no justice

The West's fears of getting in too deep in Bosnia means Karadzic and Mladic may not face trial. Can we allow them to get away with murder, asks MARTIN WOOLLACOTT. Illustration by PETER TILL.

WE KNOW their faces better than those of many of our own leaders. There is the one who looks like a stand-up comedian, with his absurd plume of hair. The other has a carnivorous appearance, like the boss of a sausage factory who eats too many of his own wares...

more vigorous action both within Bosnia and against Slobodan Milosevic and Franjo Tudjman in Serbia and Croatia. For those who merely want containment, it would be a limited process but one dramatic enough to legitimise the decisions made at Dayton.

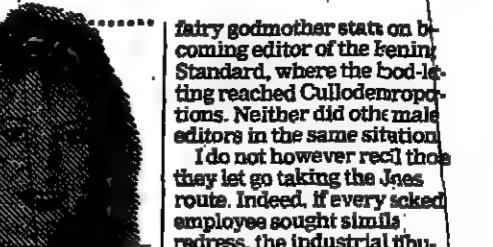
building up Kasagic, which was helped by the recent deployment of British troops to a base outside that town. But Karadzic made Kasagic an offer he could not refuse, and replaced him with one of his cronies. Blidi was angry. Richard Holbrooke, who pushed the Dayton Accord through, was both furious and tendentious.

Croatian military strength and Serbian diplomatic cooperation.

There are evident weaknesses in both the civilian and the military structures set up at Dayton. Nobody is in overall command of both. Carl Bildt has limited powers and resources and is obliged to pursue his purposes by subterfuge and by giving or withholding economic aid. Nevertheless, he represents the more activist school and is supported, intermittently, by European governments.

But to imagine that this armed services view seriously conflicts with the purpose of the civilian mission is foolish. The US army may be worried about losing soldiers if it tries to take Karadzic, but that is not the critical consideration. The critical consideration is what the American government thinks is possible, while keeping Milosevic on side. If that government wanted Karadzic arrested he would be arrested, and swiftly.

Herods and villains



Mary Riddell

THE ARRIVAL of a new boss in the workplace is traditionally accompanied by the rattle of P45s and the scratch of fountain pen on redundancy cheque. Nowhere is this custom more prevalent than in newspaper offices, where incoming editors have a particular, and often understandable, fondness for rearranging the deck chairs.

Whether Ms Douglas's recruitment programme was entirely judicious is a matter of opinion. Certainly the readability of her writing is not what it was when she was at the Sunday Express. In came some new faces, and out went some old hands. Happily, much has changed. It is palpably absurd these days to suggest that, in general, there is any distinction between the sexes. A clutch of talented women now edit or deputy-edit national newspapers. Their male colleagues have no problem, or none that I have ever noticed, in working to their agenda.

Smallweed



IF AS has been suggested, Jude the Obscure breaks the Motion Picture breaks Thomas Hardy in the cinema world. ("the film is set to do for Hardy)... what Sense And Sensibility did for Jane Austen" according

to one press report) the only surprise will be that it has taken so long. T.H.'s novels are stuffed full of topics beloved of American audiences — chiefly sex, dread diseases, fatal accidents and capital punishment. It was unfortunate that Hardy's last cinematic foray — Tess, some 17 years ago — was masterminded by director Roman Polanski, a man handicapped in his ability to publicise the film in North America by dint of a warrant for his arrest on allegations of sexual relations with a minor.

offer. So far, fair enough. Then, having detoured briefly around Napoleon and Lincoln, Smythe's publicity takes us brightly to "Cinema" including "Leslie Howard and Gene With The Wind". Take your pick then: the century's biggest mass murderer or one of its most boring films. IT IS NOT the European Union that John Major should be gunning for, but the far more sinister European Broadcasting Union, the annual "song" contest of which, as witnessed a week ago, represents nothing less than a conspiracy by the small European countries to heap humiliation on the large ones.

while, the pumpernickel principalities of Europe cheerfully awarded each other musical superpower status. Slovakia, Malta and Estonia exchanged warm smiles with the Norwegian hosts prior to the lading of their brethren with huge numbers of points. The less offensive the country's international persona, the more enormous the score. Needless to say, the oldest hands at this game, the Irish, not only won but have in the days since victory come up with an entirely new angle on the EBU's ritual punishment of Europe's heavyweights.

and blood-testing equipment brings to mind those Dad's Army jokes about the "vicer's apparatus". A MAGNIFICENT response to our modest proposals to extend the "code of conduct" of rugby's league and union into other fields of activity. This is not surprising. After all, to the English mind, division of any sort — whether the partition of Cyprus or the break between Mods and Scooter-boys — is prima facie, a "tragedy" resulting from some dreadful misunderstanding. One received address perhaps the deepest fault line in our society: the straight glass jug debate. Now is the time for the two sides to get round the table and thrash out a compromise. There has never been a better opportunity. We implore them, take a risk for peace.

Passive... ur own... bers are... and they... from the... steel... noble class... the angry... isners of... radio... a big... just... Gerry... ederson, or... newly... ted Paul... sbaccini... WINGHAM... is the... edians of... swaves... SOU... P... Poetic ev... that made... Beryl blus... ttery is getting... anywhere, writ...

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "سنة ١٤١٩ هـ"

# Passive observers in our own front rooms



Martin Kettle

**S**TEPHEN Cameron died the loneliest of deaths, knifed by a complete stranger on a motorway slip-road after a driving disqualification. But in a society as integrated by news media as ours, such an event is now a vicariously shared experience.

Like the James Bulger killing, it is an instant parable both of individual pathology and collective negligence. After such a shock, it is inevitable that we spend time debating whether things are worse now than they were in the past. Most people instinctively assume that they are, but it is important to realise that throughout history human beings have always taken the gloomy view. My school motto was Fortem Posce Animum, which roughly translated (I think) means Seek a Strong Spirit, and as such-formers some of us did just that at the Woodman on Friday nights. It was only later that I discovered that the words came from Pliny, warning two thousand years ago about how much more dangerous it had become to go out on the streets of Rome at night since he was a boy.

We habitually dramatise the present, and the unknown future frequently seems more dangerous than the known past. People often worry much more about trivial things that have not happened than about hair-raising things that are over and done with. This can lead to major self-delusion. This week the Social Affairs Unit publishes a report on bad behaviour that was revealingly entitled *Genitility Recalled*. But there never was a golden age of infinite mutual respect and unalloyed common decency. It only seems that way.

But surely there can be no argument that our civic and social bonds are actually under threat? Again, most people would instinctively agree. They say that people today are too possessive, too aggressive, too lacking in responsibility. Dignity and privacy are besieged. Public virtues are derided. Public service is seen as an excuse for private greed. Public spaces have been turned into places of threat rather than repose. Parliament has just been debating the Noise Bill, which aims to force local authorities to be tougher on noisy neighbours and loud parties, a quintessential anti-social phenomenon of our times.

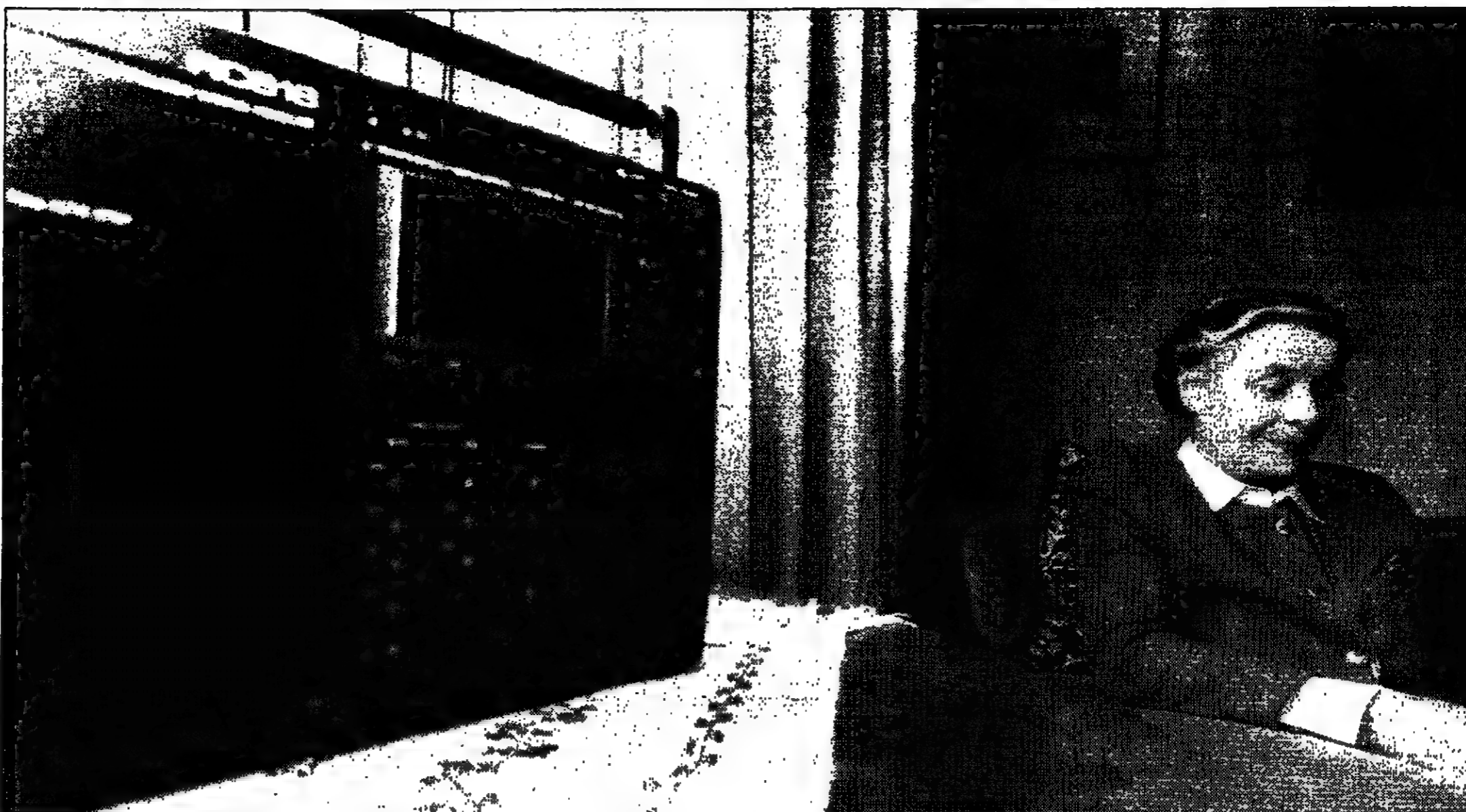
We can and should argue at length about how, when and why these things came to pass, but the current weakness of the civic bond cannot seriously be in dispute. It is in urgent need of remedial and creative attention. This is the single most important issue of our times. It is also one which is high on Tony Blair's agenda, and which informs both his rhetoric and appeal. People respond to his talk about a more cohesive society.

Yet translating talk into action is very hard. We may all disapprove of road rage, but in the end it is down to individuals to control it. At the same time, it is important not to underestimate the residual strength of the bonds which still survive. We should not assume that those who now seek to encourage greater social cohesion and civic engagement have no bricks with which to build. The important thing is to know how to assemble them, and how to care enough to try.

At a fascinating lecture this week organised by the Citizenship Foundation, Professor Ivor Crewe of Essex University put some new facts and figures into the public arena which are both daunting and illuminating for this task. Crewe and an American colleague, Donald Scaring, have just completed a research survey comparing the meaning of citizenship in Britain and the United States. And one of their prime findings is that, in contrast to the American preoccupation with legal rights and duties, British people strongly associate citizenship with membership of a community.

One respondent summed it up by saying: "I don't consciously think of myself as a citizen, I am English and I live in Brentwood". Two-thirds of the British part of the survey agreed (even if they didn't actually live in Brentwood). When they were asked whether they primarily associated the word "citizen" with membership of a community or the possession of legal rights and duties, they chose community. Unlike Americans, for whom citizenship is about laws and voting, the British equate citizenship with participation, with involvement in civic associations and with community groups.

# Their numbers are few and they hail from the genteel middle class, but the angry listeners of BBC radio pack a big punch: just ask Gerry Anderson, or the newly ousted Paul Gambaccini. JOHN CUNNINGHAM meets the guardians of the airwaves



Tuned in... Mrs Jocelyn Hay, founder of listeners' group VLV. PHOTO: GRAHAM TURNER

# Sound and fury of Middle England

**P**AUL Gambaccini's Sunday brunch last week, and in that cliché of a London showbiz eatery, Joe Allen's, stretched well into the night. But while wine and chat were in companionable flow, the BBC was putting out an announcement that Gambaccini, the classical music presenter who allegedly causes apoplexy at many tables, is to leave Radio 3 after only a year.

The news brought more comfort than the Epilogue that night to angry listeners — scores, certainly, hundreds, probably, thousands, who know — who can't stand Gambaccini's North American accent; can't stand his chattiness; won't forgive him for not being insufficiently knowledgeable about classical music; and won't forgive his Morning Chosen for shunting their beloved Composer Of The Week to noon.

They feel it Ought Not To Be Allowed. Or, as one complainant put it: "His hour of sin had the tartar rising in tides all along my dental work." It's easy to write off such listeners as greyheads poking through the moth-eaten patchwork of Middle England; longing for the sepulchral tones of old-style BBC announcements, forming self-important protest groups, and sending letters to the Daily Telegraph.

But their influence is extraordinary. Very few consumer or shareholder pressure groups manage to topple their hate figures. In spite of the huge outcry against them, Cedric Brown of British Gas and Trevor Newton of Yorkshire Water, left in their own time, hands ringing with gold. By contrast — and however diplomatically the BBC puts it — an established national presenter (18 years with Radio 1, 12 on Kaleidoscope) is not having his Radio 3 contract renewed in September because of public pressure. And before the fall of Gambaccini, angry listeners brought about the banishment from Radio 4 of Gerry Anderson, whose accent and attitudes put his show, *Anderson Country*, on the hitlist the moment Middle England clapped ears on it.

Thousands of complaints were sent to Chris Drunkley of Radio 4's Feedback and, of course, much of the protest is diffuse. However, unlike shareholders' or utility users' organisations, the broadcasting protesters are tiny, infantile. And not all of them are Daily Telegraph readers. When headteacher Ian Gordon had a letter in the Guardian last July about controller Nicholas Kenyon's regime at Radio 3, the replies led him to set up the Save Radio 3 Campaign. The wave against Gambaccini has rolled to his door

in Kent, bringing some 270 letters. "Sixty to 70 per cent of them say, 'This man's got to go'. I feel sorry for him, but he's got three or four other broadcasting things he does," says Mr Gordon. Sent sympathy, some from the largest pressure group, the Voice of the Listener and Viewer, founded by and chaired by Mrs Jocelyn Hay. She says: "We're not calling it a victory. We certainly don't crow over people and he has been very successful on other programmes." Very prim, Mrs Hay, but you can bet many elderly listeners relish a triumph that will ensure the church clock stands still at four and there's honey for tea. Why else are they campaigning?

VLV is a very proper organisation. It may be run from Mrs Hay's bungalow in Kent, but it has the ear of everyone at the Beeb from the DG down: it may have only 2,500 members, but it monitors their groans by computer. And most of all, it has the very determined 68-year-old Mrs Hay. "Army wife," she says, who has lived in half a dozen foreign countries, is a member of the Women's Institute and the Soroptimists, has worked in services broadcasting and for Woman's Hour. Lord Keith would be proud of her enunciation — and lucky to get a word in edgewise.

Mrs Hay, cosy in her cherry cardigan, taps the Radio Times that next week promises snatches of Beethoven, Purcell, Holst and Prokofiev, hosted by Mr G, and explains the exasperation of Middle England: "They changed the format, they changed the presenter, they brought in someone who was associated with a commercial rival (Gambaccini did a stint at Classic FM). I don't want to be racist or xenophobic because I'm not, but he was perceived to be different because he had a different accent. Had they brought him in to present *Composer Of The Week*, there would have been hardly any outcry." It's this last statement that's the key to much of the fury: it's the pace of change. If only they did it gradually, says Mrs Hay, giving the word the full four syllable aerobic stretch. Suddenly, you begin to make sense of the sound of Middle England: it is to do with daily domestic duties being disturbed by a different voice or a different tuning or packaging of a programme.

# Poetic evaluation that made Beryl blush

Flattery is getting a vanity publisher everywhere, writes PETER LENNON

**B**ERYL Fleming was thrilled when she received the response to her entry for the International Open Amateur Poetry Competition. "In view of your talent, we also wish to publish your

poem. Threads, in our forthcoming anthology," it read. Already the "evaluation for artistry" had made her blush: it was almost "ridiculously flattering", she said. She could not wait to tell her friend and

fellow poet, Mrs Ravenet, of Brighton. But Mrs Janis Ravenet had news for Mrs Fleming — a letter saying: "And Janis, in view of your talent, we wish to publish your poem, Alone and fearful isolated" etc, etc. Mrs Ravenet had also received a flattering "artistic evaluation" of her work in exactly the same words.

This is a particular world of vanity publishing by a circuitous route into which Mrs Fleming, of Worthing, West Sussex, and hundreds of aspiring poets are being tempted (by advertisements in national papers, including the Guardian). Everyone is invited to enter the "international competition" with the pledge that there is "no entry fee, pay-

ments or purchase requirements", and a chance to win £1,000. Although they thought they were dealing with Whitstable in Kent, both women were plugging into a literary medicine show in Owings Mills, Maryland. The correspondence gave no indication that this was an American-based operation. Poems had to be of fewer than 21 lines (to maximise the number of customers gathered in the proposed anthology, called *The Other Side Of The Mirror*). Competitors then found themselves invited to fork out £38.95 for the book, if they wanted to see themselves in print.

When we tracked down the International Society of Poets, which runs the competition, and asked about these cloned "evaluations", a spokesman in Maryland claimed the fault was not theirs; it was really the different stance British people take towards certain words. The British apparently tend to look at the word "evaluation" with closer scrutiny than satisfied customers in America. David Alecock, vice-president of the competition, said: "In Great Britain, I guess, the word is looked at much more determinedly than we do." You mean looked at more accurately? "I think people thought they were going to get a critique," said Alecock, "and we do not do that for each individual poem. That's absolutely true." But what could the word

"evaluate" possibly mean other than that the society was going to evaluate the work? Alecock, recognising that the umpire was about to strike, said that in future the word would be changed in brochures intended for Britain. "There is no doubt that this is a kind of vanity publishing," Alecock said. "But we have also been in the business for a very long time, since 1982."

Alecock (who has personally only been in the business two months, he admitted) also thought it prudent to mention that they had covered themselves so far as advertising regulations were concerned: "I just want to mention this to you because this is somewhat different from what people are used to." Alecock promised to fax the names of the British judges of the competition, but failed to do so. Equally the British representative of this business, a Chrys Chrysostou, available at a Mail Order business in Kent, failed to return our call. There is an additional danger if you win: you might find yourself in gruesome company. A Canadian mass murderer entered one of the society's quarterly contests last year. Clifford Olson, convicted of killing eight girls and three boys in 1982, had written a poem, rather tactlessly entitled "Success". He reached the semi-finals before the "judges" caught on and pulled his entry.







The scramble is on for the world's worst-behaved parliament - MATTHEW ENGEL drops in on Israel's election

# Grave issues behind ballot

**T**HE CEMETERY on the piney slopes of Mount Herzl, on the outskirts of Jerusalem, has a special section for the "Great Leaders of the Nation".

There, under a slab far grander than anyone else's, rests Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister who made peace with Yasser Arafat and was murdered by a Jewish fanatic last November. This week his grave was covered with carnations and, in line with custom, pebbles placed by those who had come to pay their respects.

A few yards away lies Golda Meir, another former PM and the personification of the Jewish grandmother. She has fewer flowers and pebbles. Next to her is her predecessor Levi Eshkol, with fewer still. Nearby are the graves of more obscure figures —

Speakers of the Knesset and so on — some of whom rated not a single pebble. Even they do better than Robert Maxwell, across the city on the Mount of Olives, whose remains, according to rumour, occasionally get piddled on by Mirror pensioners. Only in Israel could politicians find themselves still being voted on, even in death.

This is a country where politics is the national sport and we judge the living exponents of the art in an election that makes the Olympics look one-dimensional. There are 21 parties, four of them representing Israeli Arabs, several of them non-Arab but they would cheerfully extend Israeli sovereignty over most of North Africa and Asia, with possible extra demands for enclaves in Golden Green and Didsbury.

There is even a party called Meretz, which favours peace and civil liberties and less power for rabbinical extremists. It is a Guardian reader's sort of party: in these parts, it is considered mildly left-wing and will probably lose more seats than anyone next week.

There is no actual Screaming Lord Goldberg or Rabbi Buck of the Knesset, the loony parties get elected. Under the almost pure system of PR, people choose one of the national lists and only 1.5 per cent is necessary to get a seat. Until this year it was 1 per cent.

This time there is also a separate vote for the prime minister, involving only the leaders of the two main parties, Shimon Peres of Labour and Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu of Likud, the right-winger who wants to put a brake on the peace process, expand the

West Bank settlements and do his best to halt the rush towards an independent Palestine. Only the winner will be able to form a government, and if he fails, there will have to be another election. This is a slight curb on the power of the fringe parties.

It means that when they get to the Knesset, they will be able to manoeuvre less and will probably have to shout more — if that is possible. On Monday, the parliament met for its last pre-election meeting; only eight of the 120 members were present and, when I arrived, they were all talking simultaneously.

If there is a worse-behaved parliament in the world, I have yet to find it; the House of Commons is not in the same league. At the time, Ehud Barak, the foreign minister, was attempting to discuss war and

peace; one of the Likud leaders, Moshe Katzna, shouted him down for a full eight minutes. The Speaker was trying to keep order in the manner of Joyce Grenfell controlling a nursery class.

This was considered one of the Knesset's more decorous days because it was not on television. Under a bizarre election law, candidates, no matter how grand they are, cannot be seen or heard on the screen for the three weeks before voting, except in the time set aside for their own paid commercials.

When Barak went to Washington to shake hands with Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, Jews saw the ministerial hand, and his feet — but not his face. If they feel deprived, they have to watch CNN, BBC or Jordan TV. To arrange a debate, the



Face lift... a Shimon Peres supporter gets an early seat  
PHOTOGRAPH: NATHAN RAY

prime ministerial candidates have to pool their advertising time.

Since this particular election is overshadowed by Rabin's assassination, the main candidates are invisible on TV as well. The major rallies have been cancelled; the robust tradition of heckling has been stifled. Netanyahu mainly appears before carefully-veiled groups of supporters: Prime Minister Peres, trying to look as though he is far too busy to

worry about trivialities, has done virtually nothing except schedule safe newspaper photo-ops — a group of school children here, a passing American film star there.

Thus there seems to be no argument going on, even in the bogus, spin-doctored fashion of a British or American election. It is happening, but it is going on among the people themselves. Israelis do not have the inhibitions that affect the English about discuss-

ing religion and politics; if they did they would have nothing to say to each other. The weather is, after all, fairly predictable. And it is fought too on thousands of giveaway T-shirts, window posters, bumper stickers and street-corner signs, held up by clean-cut students who man the busiest road junctions during the rush hours.

Virtually all the posters are in the national colours of blue and white; everyone in this election is trying to wrap themselves in the national flag.

I passed a group of kids outside the Tel Aviv train station and one had handed me a sticker. "Ah," I said, rhetorically. "So you're for Meretz?" "Not really," he replied. "I like Bibi. But I need money and these bastards are paying me."

## Patrick Kelly, Liverpool's new archbishop, is supposed to heal Catholic rifts. So why's he so evasive?

# Drafted in to face the canon fire



The Joanna Coles Interview

**W**HILE his teenage contemporaries at Preston Catholic College were busy lathering on Brylcreem and bopping to Elvis, Patrick Kelly was busy going to mass. In fact, he went every morning, up at 6am for the 6.45am service before shutting the 25 miles to school. The son of a Morecambe dentist, he went on his own.

After school, while his contemporaries were smoking Flayers or kicking footballs, he would put his hands together at the local prayer group or visit the sick. What, I wonder, was he like as a boy? "I don't know," he says. "My memory's not very good. I can't remember."

Well, what made him go to Mass every day? "I don't know." Did his family encourage him? "We went every Sunday as a family, but this, well, my going to Mass every day was a bit different."

We are sitting in the Pope's Room at Archbishop's House, adjoining Westminster Cathedral, though no one can actually remember if the Pope stayed in this room or not. Never mind, it was decorated for his last visit in a car but the supposed row within the church between the traditionalists and progressives, recently stirred so effectively by the novelist Alice Thomas Kilgallon.

He is even supposed to be media-friendly. Hurrhah. Aged 57, he has a dog called Ben and admits to the occasional eccentricity. On his starwell he keeps in a polished glass case the skull of the Manchester-born saint, Ambrose Bascrow.

Has he always believed in God? "Yes. Yes I have." Has he ever had periods of doubt? "Not really. Let me put it another way. I think I can honestly say I've never run away from a question. I'm the sort of person who, with a ques-

tion, well I'm like a terrier with a bone. I stay with it. I cannot rest until, well I can honestly say I've not run away from any questions."

This would be a perfectly unremarkable answer, but for one thing. For the next hour, I get the impression that Kelly runs from almost every question I ask. Not just runs, but picks up his mitre and flees. His evasions are made all the odder, by the fact that his nods and murmurs sympathetically throughout our conversation — as if examining each question thoroughly and answering it equally thoroughly. Take, for example, the following question about contraception. Does he think the Pope's stand on contraception puts people, especially young people, off Catholicism?

He glances out of the window: "That's not an issue that's been raised with me."

I confess I am surprised. It seems to be an important objection to Catholicism.

"Sure, sure," he murmurs in his gentle Lancashire accent. "But no one's raised it."

What no one's raised it? His nine years at the English College in Rome, (where he studied in Latin), never, during his 18 years lecturing at Oscarsby college seminary, Birmingham; never, during the following 12 years as Bishop of Salford? He shakes his head. "I confess I'm staggered."

"Mm, I know, yes, yes. Never?" "No, no. Not in those terms."

Does he mean it's come up in other terms? "No, I don't think it has. No, no. No one's raised it." He pauses and then says, unconvincedly:

"Maybe I'm not listening."

Well, let me raise it now, while I know he's listening. Does he think it puts people off the Catholic church?

He pauses: "I think it's very important to ask people to go and read the whole letter of [Pope] Paul VI and find exactly what he said." (The encyclical letter, published in 1968, stated that all forms of artificial contraception were wrong.)

I suggest this is an unlikely solution, especially when they see the current Pope wandering around the third world and claiming contraception is a sin.

He nods again. "Mm, mm. The teaching of the letter, which is what the Pope also proclaims, is that you hold together two meanings in sexuality; unity, love and the aspect which leads to new life. It's often presumed to be a negative teaching. I think, again, I mean what I'm saying is, there's no short cut."

But here he is, the next Archbishop of Liverpool, a city drenched in Catholicism and yet being at the bottom of the Mass attendance league. Surely he must have a view on what's gone wrong, on whether or not young people

Patrick Kelly... "It could be that I'm not a good listener"

are put off his faith by its teachings on contraception. "They have never said that to me."

But what does he think? If he doesn't think it's the case, why doesn't he just say so? "It may be. I don't think there is one overriding cause."

We get no further on the question of married priests. "Again, it's not a thing which has been sharply brought as a problem," he insists. Then he adds, again unconvincedly: "It could be that I'm not a good listener, that may be it." This is a bizarre suggestion, he listens like a mynah bird, head poised for any nuance.

"I think I can honestly say I've never run away from a question. I'm the sort of person who, with a question, well I'm like a terrier with a bone."

He puts his hands quietly in his lap. "Well nobody has swinging John the Baptist's head by his hair. As I turn back, an ivory crucifix promptly looms behind Kelly's right shoulder. He smiles, his manner apparently cosy and cheerful. But just occasionally one glimpses something harder, something altogether less sympathetic. "If anyone says to me: 'I'd like to know about Jesus' I say:

"Start by reading the Gospels and attending to every detail in them, then we'll start talking." I murmur that perhaps there's another, less academic way to arouse people's interest? He repeats something he has said earlier and which, after nine years of studying, he clearly believes: "There are no short cuts."

What, I ask, did he enjoy about his 18 years teaching? "Um, I don't know. But I did, and I do, mm mm." Does he remember any outstanding pupils? "Nobody standing out, but lots of fine people, mm, mm."

Well, what about his first memory as a priest? "Good memories, mm, mm. Oh thanks for jogging my memory. The very first house I visited, I went to see an old lady, this was what I'd been preparing for... She just looked at me and said: 'Oh well, I suppose a lot of good can come in small parcels.' He slaps his knees and squeals with laughter.

"That's memory number one. Oh, Mrs Rudden," he says at the thought of her, laughing so much he almost has to wipe his eyes.

So how will bring his Liverpoolian flock back into church? "There's no magic cure. I come back to what's always been true. The only way is the powerful witness of good Christians. Nothing else has ever worked."

But if there are fewer and fewer of them around? "I know. It's a vicious circle, it is. It is."

## Putting manners on the moralists

So women must become 'ladies' again. Never, says SUZANNE MOORE

**L**OUTS it seems come in all persuasions. There live among us those who have their noses pierced, their flesh tattooed. There are female novelists who embrace "yobbi-ness", there are young men who dress in (avert your eyes) casual clothes. We have been warned this week that the meltdown of society has its root cause in the professionalisation of cricket.

Greater equality between the sexes is also to blame. A judge for the Betty Trask award was dismayed to read books written by women that were "astoundingly sleazy, foul-mouthed and violent".

Another indication of all this is wrong with the world, according to a report called *Gentility Recalled*, is to do with the wearing of "denim trousers". Denim trousers? The authors of this peculiar work cannot be accused of wanting to turn the clock back, they simply haven't realised the clock has been ticking at all. They want to restate the term "lady", they want us to dress more formally, they want old people to act their age, they want us to be more respectful of doctors. In other words they would like us to know our place in society and stay there.

This has little to do with any definition of manners that I could live with. But that's hardly a surprise as I was dragged up in a land far from Debutts. Either that or I have been infiltrated by that horrible virtue known as "the sixties". Actually I do think manners are important, but modern manners surely need to be based on a set of social codes that make people feel included not excluded. The kinds of behaviour dignified by this report have no relevance to my life, not — I like to think — because I am incredibly rude, but because I live in the 1990s rather than the 1890s.

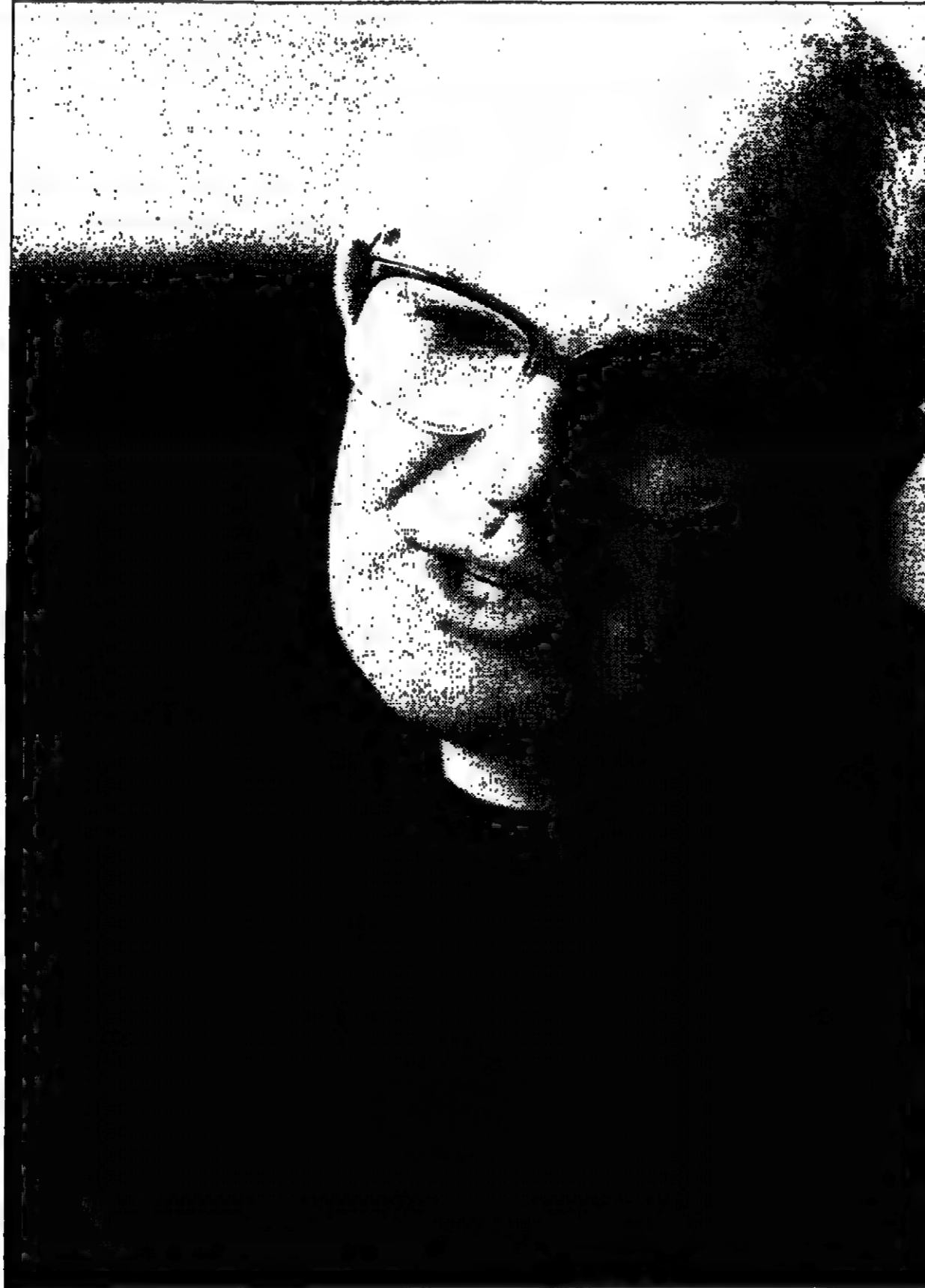
I am also too busy to do my job properly, as a "lady" is there apparently to help in

the civilising of those horrid beasts — men. I don't see it as my vocation to be a civilising influence on anyone. Graham Lord, critical of the entries in the Betty Trask award, observed: "Once it was women who softened and civilised their men and children." Now we have abandoned our femininity and started writing books full of *didoes*, loveless sex and four-letter words.

If my memory serves me properly, only two weeks ago the problem with women's writing, according to opponents of the Orange Prize, was that it was too domestic and insular. This week the problem is that it's full of filth. The trick is to write an *Agas Saga* full of bestiality and stouping political intrigue. But that is too much for us girls who will write about our filthy habits such as having periods and all that yucky unalike stuff. This subject matter coming from a woman is somehow ill-mannered. Fiction may be about truth and imagination but so-called ladylike behaviour is about lies, a fiction for the benefit of men.

Actually, what I find incredibly distasteful is the continuing exclusion of women from all sorts of public spaces and debates. What pray has the professionalisation of cricket to do with me? I cannot, by virtue of my sex, even enter the hallowed temple of the MCC enclosure at Lords.

The kind of manners proposed by the authors of this fossilised tome are about social control. The loosening up of society, the entry of women into formerly male preserves causes them acute anxiety. And so it should. Once men opened doors for ladies while shutting many other doors in their faces. Nowadays women can open the doors for themselves. This is not loutish behaviour. This is progress and a perfect gentleman ought to know the difference.



PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

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# The not so great Gambo

Radio  
Anne Karpf

SO GAMBO is going. And, much as with Gerry Anderson before him, the Middle Englanders are crowding over another victory, while others are now saying that he wasn't quite so awful after all.

On the surface, it looks as if both Gambaccini and Anderson were victims of British vocal racism, which rises up against anything but received pronunciation, and still wants all broadcasters to sound like Richards Dimbleby or Baker. And victims of those British conservatives who treat Radio 3 as if it were a listed building.

My own hostility to Morning Collection goes far deeper. Gambaccini embodies the Classic FM approach to classical music, which seeks to divest it of its stuffy image and intimidating aura. Hooray to that, most would say. But it's the methods that beg the questions. The music is given a marketing make-over: it becomes a product, branded and packaged like a jar of coffee.

Ours is a culture in which presentation is all, or thought to be. So Gambaccini's bland slickness is meant to emoliate the anxious potential listeners of classical music, to persuade them that it can go down a treat. Yet his techniques consistently undermine the music. On Thursday, he was at his most patronising. Having introduced a Brahms Piano Quartet with a short epilogue about the composer having played in a brothel, he said: "Now you've pictured young Brahms, and now you're beginning to understand the genesis of today's music."

Worst of all, Gambaccini has fallen prey to the Biographical Fallacy — the notion that you can read off a composer's life from his or her work (Ken Russell-style), and that a decent knowledge of their relationships deepens your understanding of their symphonies. It seems as if we're meant to imagine ourselves as the composer or performer. To insert oneself into his or her life in some bizarre feat of psychological virtual reality, and that only through this act of identification will we really feel the music. Thus on Wednesday Gambaccini, introducing another Brahms Piano Quartet, suggested that "if you've ever had a friend who was supremely talented but extremely insecure, you've been in the position of Hungarian violinist-composer Josef Joachim." The irony is that Brahms Piano Quartets are among the most accessible parts of the repertoire and don't need this kind of mediation. Schoenberg, perhaps; Brahms, no.

But can Radio 3 modernise itself without recourse to such crude methods, or without the constant time-checks, station IDs and what the traditionalists decry as "chat"? One programme Nicholas Kenyon introduced to the schedules two years ago sounds quite different from the old-style Radio 3 and yet has received nothing but praise. The Music Machine, the daily, though for most it's an excuse for a snoop around some select addresses.

"Artists always have such interesting houses," a woman in Rugby Road told me, trying to peer behind the rope across the stairs to nice stately home touch that. "This place is better than any gift shop."

Still, she was disappointed. It wasn't quite Charleston. You couldn't see the Bloomsbury brigade creating in front of a coal-effect gas fire.

Often there are more interesting than the art. Brighton bohemians have a swagger, an easy outrageousness because there are so many of them. They all look like they've just run away from the circus, or the circus



Why have the people of Brighton turned their houses into public galleries, and is the work displayed inside any good? FIACHRA GIBBONS reports

# Home is where the art is

ART SCHOOLS never tire of telling their young daubers to throw their studios open to the public, to court criticism, to provoke reaction. No one ever thinks of the poor punters. No one ever imagines that one day an ordinary person might be pushed so far as to say what they really think.

But this is what happened in Brighton last Saturday — and in the artist's own front room as well. The critic was one of her elderly neighbours, an irksome survivor of the area's gentrification. "No disrespect, love, but how do you expect someone to get wallpaper to go with that? You don't do dog pictures, do you? ... Take my advice, love, if you want to make a go of this lark, do some nice dogs, or rabbits for them that likes wilder stuff." Everything went silent except for Enya chanting something meaningless — and not even Gaelic — in the background.

The old dear was right. She just didn't know the jargon, how to say "Wow! It's so different" with a straight face. But she knew something didn't work.

Outside, cherry blossom blotted in the breeze, a Jack Russell sniffed at an unfeasibly large Labrador and a queue of the curious built up on the garden path. Every May an odd ritual is enacted in the better parts of Brighton. It is called the Open Houses, where everyone from Sunday watercolourists to darlings of the avant garde turn their sitting rooms into galleries for the four weekends of the Brighton Festival.

There is nothing quite like it anywhere else — nearly 80 homes and 40 studios flung open, with everything from busts to painted toilet seats for sale. A thousand people or more can trudge through a house in a day. Some even go to look at the art, though for most it's an excuse for a snoop around some select addresses.

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A thousand people can trudge through a house in a day. Some even go to look at the art, though most go to snoop

has run away from them. In Hanover I saw a woman growl and grab a bronze by its buttocks. She wore a necklace that looked as if it was made from the molars of her former lovers. Down the road, two guys got holistic.

"I can tell by your aura that you're an artist too."

"How did you guess? Yes, I am thinking about becoming one — this is so inspirational. At the moment I'm a dancer. I don't know what to do. I've been told I have a great sympathy for crystals therapy as well." All very Brighton.

What's amazing is not how much bad stuff there is, but how much good. Then again, nearly two per cent of the town's population describe themselves as visual artists.

Guardians snog on the back seat. "I don't know how people put up with it. You're a prisoner in your own home for a month while everyone noses around your nicknacks. It's thick. The visual arts get so little help. The council and the festival are next to useless."

So bad in fact that they didn't get the Open Houses guide on to the streets until two weeks into the festival. They also managed to lose an exhibition of John Lennon sketches by giving it only a derisory mention in the fringe brochure.

Great as they are, the Open Houses flatter to deceive. The real richness of the Brighton scene is to be found among its cutting edge cooperatives led by Red Herring, Tin Star, Phoenix and Mace, who have between them attracted some of the best young artists in the country to Brighton. Red Herring, housed in an old Wine Gum factory in Hove, pioneered the way in the early nineties, producing such talents as John Mills (the sculptor who's work graced the last two Batman movies), Bruce Williams (of the huge Tony Hancock sculptures), Shirley Chubb, Matthew Miller and Jane Fortham. It is also from this pool that a Brighton School is likely to emerge. But that's another story. Until the new artist-run Fabrica gallery opens in an old church last month, they had no place locally to show work that had already been seen all over the world.

After two days of tramping from house to house I finally found heaven in Hanover. It was one of these narrow streets from which Stomp!, Pete McCarthy, and the English elements of Architects, sprang. You need a sherpa to get up Southover Street to the Up The Hill Gallery just across from the Islington chippy, but it's worth it. The rest of the year it's Terry Howe's two-bedroom terrace. Terry has sprayed every inch of his back room with darjeeling tea. You put on surgical shoes and step into the dark. Slowly you become aware of clocks, dolls, a pram and odd fungal growths on the wall. Every time you move, the tea releases more of its aroma. It is strangely calming. You don't want to leave this tomb of memory.

And then it hit me. That's the good thing about death — even if you're going to another private view.

The Open Houses exhibition runs on Saturday and Sunday from 12 to 6pm. The show at the Fabrica, Duke Street, continues until June 16.

Some have even sold. Brighton is St Ives without the sand and the silly old codgers just retired from Surrey pretending to be primitives.

Ned Hoskins is convinced something special is happening here. He started Open Houses in 1980 with a few friends in the Fiveways district, mixing big-name local artists like Harvey Daniels, Philip Dunn and Andrej Jackowski with their next-door neighbours. He's an ex-Calliforman with an ex-wife, rainbow flip-flops and ponytail to his backside. His bathroom is stocked with enough toilet roll to stem a regiment with the runs. "Look! There's hardly room to stand. We're putting the galleries out of business. People come and see work in a

domestic setting, and they're not intimidated. Young artists mix with people they would not normally get a look in with." Downstairs a young Flemish ceramicist, Wim Seele, meets his public. He's quivering with nerves, but the feedback's good. It's all rather touching.

Fred Pipes, five foot nothing, Hawaiian shirt, Panama hat, fried egg and bacon wallpaper, specialises in painting ghostly apparitions of Elvis in famous public buildings. He couldn't be bothered turning his house upside down again. So this year he's exhibiting in his car, a two-tone Ford Classic — a sort of stretch Anglia — "the forgotten car of the sixties", as he calls it. A papier maché couple made up of old

# Is it soap or surrealism?

Television  
Nancy Banks-Smith

WHAT makes Coronation Street (Granada) so savoury is the writing. It is better than necessary. It is, ooh-ah, just a little bit more.

Fred, Don and Jack are leaning on the bar of the Rovers. Fred is a butcher, who looks like a pig reflected in a spoon. Don is a one-legged taxi driver. If Jack had a cow, he would swap it for a handful of beans. Recently, while under the influence, they bought a racehorse. Horses, you may have noticed, don't buy people. Horses have got more sense.

Alec said to Rita "Look at them three over there! To think that Walt Disney died before drawing any of them." The image catches your fancy immediately like flypaper.

This week Fred was moaning the feelings of modern youth in general and his errand boy, Ashley, in particular. (Ashley is the one who would have joined the army, but he hasn't got the qualifications.) "Gastroenteritis!" said Fred. "They don't know what gastroenteritis is these days. They only have to sneeze and they're looking in their armpits for boils."

This, in case you weren't around at the time, is a reference to the black death, which announced itself with a sneeze. "Aishoo! Aishoo! All fall down!" The assumption that you will catch all this on the wing is characteristic of the writing.

Roy Newton of Nottingham, who treasures such quotes in an old biscuit box, has reminded me of this unregarded richness. His personal favourite was Eileen O'Connell, who has someone at the Rovers was caught stealing. "Oooh, they ought to burn his clothes!"

If it weren't a soap, it would be surrealism.

Eddie Braben's scripts for Morecombe and Wise had the same unexpected wit. As you might anticipate, a roaring ratings success. As Daisy says "There hasn't been anything worth watching on telly recently."

Gardeners' World (BBC2) completed its tour to Holland. I went myself last week to see the tulip fields. It was like the battle of Waterloo. The tulips stand to attention in regimented rows until — don't look — they are all beheaded and their heads heaped in scarlet and gold pyramids at the edge of the field.

As I once heard Mariene Dietrich sing to Montgomery of Alamein "Where have all the flowers gone?"

# Reviews

POP  
Manic Street Preachers  
Glasgow Barrowlands

INDEED, it looked a little bare up there. The presence of the Manic Street Preachers on a touring stage again is inevitably marked by the absence of their catering-wheel guitarist and yellower muse, Richey James. Missing and (increasingly) presumed no more. There were no obvious dedications, other than a butters-light beaming down on a vacant spot. The grim passion of this performance seemed dedication enough.

While the Manics' have been grappling with their own personal history of disappearance and death, pop history has moved on. Yet as Britpop's eruptions cool down into a new landscape — all those jagged mouldings of lad and camp, punk, boho and proletarian — the Manic Street Preachers can be seen to have anticipated most developments.

This gig, in terms of their own transgressive history, was a buttoned-down, garage-floor affair — no men in dresses, no slashings or raincoats or tunings, a standard strobe-lit rock spectacle. Yet the strength and depth of the Manics' material pushed you back against

OPERA  
Così fan tutte  
Glyndebourne

TREVOR NUNN'S virtuoso production of Così fan tutte, elegantly set on a Neapolitan cruise ship circa 1900, was the star turn of Glyndebourne's Mozart bicentenary season in 1991. With Simon Rattle in the pit and a first-class team of principals headed by Amanda Roocroft, the wit and energy of that year were always going to be difficult to match in revivals.

And so it proves now, as the production makes its first appearance in the new Glyndebourne theatre in a revival by Michael McCarthy. The nautical staging is still a very clever conceit, allowing some excellent jokes, but the complex Tisot-inspired network of silent shipboard extras, has lost some of its snap. Nevertheless, Maria Bjornson's cutaway designs continue to work a treat and newcomers will find much delight in this highly ingenious production.

The verdict on the musical side must also be conditional. Franz Welser-Möst conducts a rather stop-and-start account, exemplified by his handling

# For sale: the Bronte birthplace. JAKE LYNCH reports

## Wuthering slights

IN A few dozen square miles of West Yorkshire, the name of Bronte is attached to everything from cuddly toys to curries — Haworth, the town where the family settled, even boasts a Bronte Belt. And yet the sisters' birthplace of Thornton, a small rural village near Bradford, seems to be keeping its credentials to itself. In among the boarded-up shops is the one place with a perfect right to proclaim its literary associations. But nowadays the house where Charlotte, Emily and Anne were born is an ordinary private residence. And it is up for sale.

To gauge the unfulfilled potential, reach for a technique from the novels themselves — the instructive comparison. A couple of hundred miles away in genteel Hampshire, the home of another writer-heroine, Jane Austen, is twice as busy with visitors since a flurry of sumptuous screen adaptations. It all fits with the current fad for marketing Britain as one gigantic film set.

Conveniently, Zeffirelli's movie version of Jane Eyre has recently opened in the US, with William Hurt as Rochester and Charlotte Gainsbourg as Jane. It's expected here in the autumn. Could it set our jodhpurs straining for Bronstein, just as Emma Thompson and the BBC have awakened us to Dashwoods and Darceys?

Already, the Bronte Parsonage Museum at Haworth is second only to Stratford in the



The cottages at Thornton. Yours for £100,000

Memorial Fund, set up to disburse takings from the National Lottery. Taking Scruton's lead, activists from the Bronte Birthplace Trust are applying for money to buy the house — now converted back into two cottages — and turn it into a visitor centre.

But Trust project co-ordinator Pat Calver is keenly aware that time may be running out. "The Church altered the original buildings in 1802 to make it into a parsonage, but later sold it to a local firm of butchers. Since then it's been used as a gift shop, then most recently a restaurant. But since that failed it's just been turned into two cottages. If one of them was bought separately it would break up the site, and that would be a tragedy," she sighs.

As Memorial Fund plenipotentiaries decide whether the project is worthy of our national largesse, one significant snag remains. Muriel Jordan lays down her upholstery work and reminisces on her eventful few years as custodian of the Bronte Birthplace. She is putting finishing touches to the two extremely attractive stone cottages, on the market for a combined total of just over £100,000. She and husband Malcolm, a professional joiner, sank all their savings and more into the abortive attempt to establish the Thornton house as a restaurant. Although she wishes the trust well, she is in no position to drop the asking price to keep her child remaining asset open to the public.

Unfortunately, the conservationists are bound by complicated lottery rules, which stipulate that the Brontes' birthplace must be independently valued — as if it were Tom, Dick and Harry who were born there, not Charlotte, Anne and Emily. Their offer is dismissed by Mrs Jordan as "peanuts".

So the impasse remains. Without a dramatic intervention, this Bronte story may be heading for an uncharacteristic anti-climax.

APRIL 20 1990

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# Doomed to live with the Marx brothers

**S**INCE the annus mirabilis of 1989, George Konrad, Hungary's sharpest living writer, has watched Central Europe's fortunes rise and fall like the level of the Danube. "We all seem to be expecting something, an explanation of where we belong," he remarked emblematically in one of several essays which are now available in soft covers.

It was a statement of fact with a hint of accusation, though it was not clear whether Konrad's main charge of indecisiveness was levelled at his fellow Central Europeans, "small nations with restless collective egos and makeshift provisional identities", or at the outside world.

In the three years since those comments, the region has received an answer which makes the locus of blame plain enough. Central Europe is to remain a periphery. It is doomed to hang about in a permanent anti-room, while enclaves from Nato and the European Union fit through the area but to no one ever names the date for joining either club. In Budapest, Prague, and Warsaw a palpable mood of resentment is growing as the political elite wonders how much more it needs to do to prove its eligibility.

In the first flush of post-communist independence Konrad might have mimicked Czechoslovakia's dissident playwright, Vaclav Havel, and become his country's president. His time under arrest, his renown as a democrat, and the reputation of seminal books like his early 1980s text *Anti-Politics*, were of a similar order. Many Hungarians hoped he would go for it. But with a young wife and small children, and a strong reluctance to compromise his personal freedom, he declined.

Despite his abstinence, he enjoys a few unofficial quasi-presidential perks. As we strolled to a restaurant from a villa in one of the leafier parts of Buda, we approached a busy main road. Although there was no zebra crossing in sight, a car came to a respectful halt and the driver waved Konrad on. He beamed at seeing how impressed I was. "It happens quite often," he confessed.

Unlike Havel, Konrad is a joker and something of a maverick. He is proud of the way Parliament reacted when he came out against arresting people for possessing cannabis. From the Christian Democrats to the former communists, every party denounced his view that it was a private matter which did no harm to others. "It is a creator of unity. There's never been such unanimity," he chortles.

Central Europe's identity has always been a measure of the region's relationship with the outside world rather than a reflection of an intrinsic sameness. During the cold war the West tended to see it as a place of drab uniformity under the jackboot of Stalinism. In fact, each country managed to preserve a remarkable amount of individuality. Each reacted to communist rule in its own way. Each tried to throw it off differently and now, when communism has gone, each one is experiencing a different transition.

Take Central Europe's three abortive anti-communist stands, separated by a round dozen years. They took widely different forms; armed

uprisings in Hungary in October 1956, reform-by-stealth led by intellectuals and party insiders in Czechoslovakia in 1988, a slow-burning workers' revolt in Poland in 1989.

None was more viciously suppressed than in Hungary. A week of street fighting in Budapest in 1956 left more than 25,000 dead, most killed in hand-to-hand combat with Russian tanks or executed afterwards. Until the horrors of Bosnia, it was Europe's biggest war since 1945.

The post-war repression was coldly vicious. Konrad remembers walking through one working-class street in Budapest three years after the uprising. Alarmed by sobbing, he found a group of women who had just been told to come to the central prison to collect their children's clothes. As teenagers in 1956 they had been among the crowds of kids who threw petrol bombs at Soviet tanks. But — this was the real ghastliness — the police did not detain them at the time. Minors cannot be executed so the authorities waited until they reached the right age. In the spring of 1959, the police came back and went searching from house to house. Seventy young people were arrested, of whom 19 were hanged.

For decades the burial place of the thousands secretly dumped in unmarked pits was known only to a few officials. Lot 301, the name it still bears, was nothing but a maze of bushes and shrubs at the farthest end of Budapest's Kozma Street cemetery, a good half-mile beyond the neat family tombs and clipped grass borders in the "working" part of the cemetery. Here and there, peasants roamed at peace, disturbed only by an occasional grave-digger come to dispose of a convict executed at the nearby prison.

The great change of 1989 threatened to disturb Lot 301 for ever. The declining communist regime hoped to win favour by permitting the ceremonial re-burial of Imre Nagy, the leader of the uprising. The thicket was cleared, a rough white Rubik-cube of a monument erected, and hundreds of headstones laid out in rows. Beside each of the stands a tall, wooden post like a totem-pole, a throw-back to Hungary's pagan past. Yet, even though Lot 301 has become a national memorial-site, its quiet dignity remains unspoiled for most of the day. There are no signs at the front of the cemetery to encourage visitors to make the half-hour trek to the martyrs' graves.

Even the approach of the 40th anniversary has rekindled little interest. The government of re-named former communists is headed by Gyula Horn, who as a member of the militia was on the wrong side in 1956. He has no wish to look back. Konrad, then a fledgling journalist, swapped typewriter for machine-gun to guard the university against the Russians. Now he says "I doubt whether I will even go to the cemetery".

Because the repression was so harsh, the regime later over-compensated. Janos Kadar, the leader the Russians installed, introduced a soft economy with high relative consumption and generous welfare benefits — very different from the way the Czech authorities behaved after 1989. Though almost no one died in the Soviet invasion, the subsequent purge of the Communist party, the univer-

sities, and every other state institution was so severe that a generation of intellectuals and the best-educated remained alienated for two decades.

It is no accident that the Czech electorate is backing the Central European trend and not letting the communists back to power, and that the Communist party remains small and unreformed. In Poland the bitterness of martial law is also taking years to fade. Voters have brought back the former communists for largely economic reasons but their old political opponents from the Solidarity trade union movement still refuse any alliance with them.

Hungary is the exception. In the early 1980s, Konrad was already predicting it would go the way of countries in southern Europe like Spain, Portugal and Greece, where "a middle-class intelligentsia on the road to bourgeois democracy" would lead up the political bureaucracy of dictatorship.

"The old recipe," he wrote, "called for the overthrow of the machinery of power by means of a mass movement. The new recipe calls for a transformation of the political structure by means of a slowly ripening social transformation."

And so it was. The regime gradually changed. Communists turned into economic neo-liberals and political pluralists and Konrad's friends in the Association of Free Democrats joined them in government as junior partners. The 1986 events have been left to the hardline rightwing opposition, the Smallholders' Party. If they hold a commemoration at Lot 301, it will be another reason why Konrad does not expect to go.

In the early months after the Soviet collapse it was Czechoslovakia's Vaclav Havel who led the way towards re-defining Central Europe's future. He suggested

neutrality as a step towards a confederation of East and West which would make the old military blocs redundant. The idea found favour with Francois Mitterrand but not with other western leaders. Now it has been ruled out.

When the government-funded Czech Institute of International Relations listed the neutrality option among a range of theoretical choices (and rejected it) last year, the Foreign Ministry refused to accept the paper for fear the government would be accused of taking it seriously.

**T**HE NEXT idea was regional integration. At Visegrad castle above the Danube, the presidents of Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary signed a treaty of co-operation in October 1991. Its spirit was soon subverted as the three governments flour, when Slovakia split off) began to compete with each other to get the best possible deal from Western Europe. The fiercely free-market Czech prime minister, Vaclav Klaus, also based that "Central Europe" could become a metaphor for a "third way" between capitalism and socialism.

Klaus turned his blunt pro-Westernism into an art form. On the one hand he played hard to get with Brussels by delaying a formal application to join the European Union until this year. On the other, he tried to show how much reader his economy was by refusing to accept his Central European allies' currencies.

Attila Agh, a leading political scientist in Budapest, recalls how one could buy a return train ticket for Vienna or Frankfurt with Hungarian forints long before one could for Prague. The Czechs demanded the return section be paid for in Czech crowns or western currency.

As hopes faded for early entry into the European Union, "joining Europe" shifted to military security. The countries thought they would get into Nato quickly, since this required less adjustment. Central Europe became prey to what Leszlo Valki, the director of the Hungarian Foreign Affairs Society, writing in the latest issue of the *Hungarian Quarterly* calls "a rather odd psychosis". "From Warsaw to Budapest every political action is judged by whether it furthers or hinders accession to Nato," he writes.

The reasons pre-date these countries' experience of Soviet domination. Stuck in *Zwischen-Europa* ("In-between Europe", the region's small nations struggled for two centuries to achieve statehood as wars by Turks, Austrians, Russians, and Prussians raged over or around them. The political elites want to end that unpredictability by joining the "security community" which Western Europe has enjoyed for a half-century and which makes a new war between its members unthinkable.

But Professor Valki argues that Nato's insistence on retaining the option to deploy nuclear weapons in the region creates a counter sense of insecurity. Six of Nato's 14 European members have no nuclear weapons, so why shouldn't the potential new entrants from Central Europe be guaranteed the same let-out? Valki's point is well-taken since surveys show that even in Poland, where eagerness to join the alliance is highest, it evaporates over the nuclear issue: 61 per cent of Poles would not join Nato if it meant having nuclear weapons on their territory.

In Poland, Wojciech Lamentowicz, recently appointed as President Aleksander Kwasniewski's main foreign policy adviser, describes the four countries of Central Europe as "an imagined community of common hopes". The memory of oppression from Russians and Nazi Germany which produced a sense of danger on both flanks obscures a deeper cultural pull which comes from one direction only, namely the West.

"Central Europe's geopolitical identity," Lamentowicz argues, "was and is based on a

cultural duality, on the hope of being accepted into the West and the fear of being dominated by the East."

The road West was available in more than one form. "Decisive westernisation" meant the earliest possible shift towards Nato on the grounds that Russia was dangerous, unstable, and unable to build a democratic, non-imperial form of government. "Reluctant westernisation" meant joining Nato while trying to provide a bridge between Russia and the West, so as to help Russia become a westernised state and come closer to the Euro-Atlantic community.

The first Solidarity governments in Poland chose "decisive westernisation", according to Lamentowicz. When the

former communist, Aleksander Kwasniewski, defeated Lech Walesa in December, he maintained the pro-Nato stance. The only nuance of change is Lamentowicz's view that the Russians should eventually be invited to join Nato. He calls the American position of excluding the Russians "unwise" because it could provoke the Russians into trying to restore the Soviet Union under new conditions.

With no guarantee of early accession to the European Union or Nato, Central Europeans have started to reinvent themselves. "We must represent ourselves as Central Europeans," as Attila Agh puts it. Even the Czech premier, Vaclav Klaus, is taking a new interest in the regional



George Konrad is the great joker of Hungarian politics, but it's becoming harder to get a laugh out of Central Europe, dangling between East and West. JONATHAN STEELE asked how he saw the tragi-comedy developing

free trade area (CEFTA), which plans to remove all internal tariffs by 2000.

Part of Central Europe's anger at the long wait comes from realising that the EU's leading member-states prefer the present limbo. In 1989 Poland and Hungary had a rough balance of trade with the EU. Now they import far more than they sell. Western corporations, led by the Germans, operate freely within the region. To them it makes no difference whether the region joins the EU. Meanwhile, the EU need not adjust its common agricultural policy or enlarge the structural funds which go to poorer members.

**I**N GERMANY and Japan, the transition to democratic capitalism after 1945 was eased in over a period of years while their economies were kept closed and their currencies non-convertible, and with the aid of massive transfers of capital. Yet these were war-ravaged economies where the imperative of speed was strong. In Central Europe, the need for economic re-structuring in 1989 was not as paramount as building the political institutions of an open society. But, encouraged by their western backers, the new governments chose to dismantle the communist-era welfare states.

Some officials condemned them as "paternalistic", on the grounds that they kept citizens passive, dependent, and unenterprising. Others like the Hungarian economist, Janos Kornai, called them "premature" welfare states. The countries' economies were too under-developed to be able to afford cradle-to-grave provision. A radical shift from consumption to investment was the only way to modernise and compete in the global market-place.

The rapid transition has produced a widening of income differentials and left many, perhaps most, Central Europeans economically less secure. Flourishing cities co-exist with new rural poverty. Konrad says Central Europe's real border does not abut Austria. It runs through Hungary itself, separating a booming western half from a stricken East. In Poland the pattern is similar. Warsaw and five other large cities have had prosperity in an eroding desert of decline.

The fact that Central Europe has completed the switch to an open society and maintained political stability while making this tough economic transition is a remarkable story of success. It reinforces the case that the area deserves better of the West. Entry into Nato is a sop with little practical benefit which may increase instability further. Entry into the European Union ought to be speeded up.

George Konrad's *The Melancholy of Rebirth, Essays from Post-Communist Central Europe*, is published by Harcourt Brace and Company, New York

**JONATHAN STEELE** was the *Guardian's* East European correspondent during the 1970s. He covered the fall of communism as Moscow bureau chief from 1985 to 1994. Author of several books on Russia and Eastern Europe, he now works in London for the *Guardian* and the *Observer* as a reporter and commentator

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James Rouse

# Builder of a flawed Utopia

JAMES ROUSE, who has died aged 81, was the greatest visionary developer working in American cities in recent times. His influence extended around the globe, from Buenos Aires to Sydney, Osaka, Liverpool and Barcelona.

Born on Maryland's Eastern Shore, he began as a small-scale mortgage banker in the 1930s, but came into his own as the pioneer of large-scale regional shopping malls. He was the sort now common in Britain — in the 1950s and 1960s. From that he went on to build the new town of Columbia in Maryland, and push for inner city revitalisation via large-scale, often waterfront, redevelopment projects.

Rouse was the kind of developer who "made no little plans" (as Daniel Burnham put it). He often quoted Goethe's *Faust* to the effect that "boldness had genius, power and magic in it and that 'whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it.' But not a little of the Faustian drama touched his work as he sought to reconcile his pact with capitalism and the market with communitarian and social ideals.

Rouse could realise his plans because he was, above all, a pragmatist. He had little time for academic research, theory, or even extended empirical work. But he understood very well the fundamental rule of real-estate development — location, location and location. And he had a flair for seeing possibilities and realising them when others threw up their hands in despair.

He came to believe that the problems of ailing American cities could be cured through a strong and committed public-private partnership dedicated to revitalising a spirit of community. Entrepreneurial vision and drive coupled with a sense of community would solve all problems.

For him, such a partnership meant more than the public taking the risk and the private taking the profit. Public provision meant improving the lives of ordinary and disadvantaged people. He therefore gave freely of his accumulated wisdom and of his prodigious energy to aid all manner of public works (from presidents to local mayors).

He was a consummate businessman, adept at giving people what they wanted and persuading people to want what he had to give. Early on he saw the power of Disneyland as a marketing strategy for urban development and recognised the latent demand of affluent, middle-class Americans to engage in multi-purpose shopping in a secure, controlled and, above all, pleasant interior environment. Shopping, he felt, should be an uplifting, comfortable experience in which people are made to feel important. His was a populist style of development and he produced an architecture to match.

But there were evident limits to his approach to urban life. Rouse helped to create the "I shop therefore I am" culture of mindless consumerism that came to characterise middle class life in America. In so doing he helped unwittingly to foster a political indifference to the well-being of others that was profound and deep, with his own communitarian ideals. The suburbanisation of shopping malls likewise accelerated the inner city decay that became his later preoccupation.

By far his greatest project was the new town of Columbia. In an extraordinary operation that involved the packaging of immense financial powers, sophisticated and

very secretive land assembly, and a lot of brainstorming as to design, Rouse set out to show that private capital, operating with only minimum public financial support, could successfully create a totally new city. Nearly 30 years later Columbia has more than 80,000 residents, an apparent success story for both the Rouse Corporation that built it and the people who live there.

But there is a gap between the initial vision and the reality. Rouse hoped, in the tradition of Ebenezer Howard, to create a new town community unto itself with strong local employment and a population mix of classes, races and incomes. But in the end it was a location that made Columbia work — equidistant from Baltimore and Washington, it became a commuter haven for the relatively affluent fleeing inner city ills and thus accelerated the decline of downtowns in both cities. Racial integration of the middle class was the only residual sign of the initial vision.

Perturbed by the collapse of inner cities into wastelands of despair and decaying buildings, Rouse turned his talents in the 1970s to their revitalisation. Festival market places



Rouse helped shape the 'I shop therefore I am' culture of mindless consumerism that came to characterise middle class life in America

like Faneuil Hall in Boston — a formula endlessly and repetitively copied by Rouse and others elsewhere — were built as anchors for downtown revitalisation.

His landmark project was the inner harbour renewal in Baltimore. Mixing tourism, consumption, leisure and office development, in a space that made maximum use of the waterfront, Rouse helped achieve a populist effect and achieved a profitable result that many sought to emulate — as in Liverpool's Albert Dock — far less successfully elsewhere. But even in Baltimore the effect was largely that of "bread and circuses," of consumerism and spectacle, rather than of substance. A billion dollars more in public and private investment money, Baltimore's inner harbour drained resources from the rest of the city, making a spectacular island of leisure and populist consumption in the midst of a sea of accelerating urban decay.

James Rouse was a profoundly ethical and religious man. It was characteristic of him that when he retired from the Rouse Company in 1981, he put most of his personal net worth into the Enterprise Foundation, a national non-profit body to finance the rehabilitation of housing for the poor. Active in several

cities, Rouse again chose Baltimore as one of his most intensive experimental zones, taking on, as part of a public, private and non-profit partnership, one of the city's most run-down areas that had been untouched by the inner harbor renewal. While the physical ambience of the area improved, its social and employment conditions proved far harder to change.

In 1988, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honour. President Clinton praised his life as "exemplary of the American spirit." "It is a fair judgment. James's life is an extraordinary record of both the powers and the limits of that spirit to deal with urban ills that worsened, rather than improved in his lifetime. Urban ills in America evidently cannot fundamentally be cured, by even an honest participant in the process of the public and private sectors. They can, as Frederick Engels remarked, at best be moved around. Rouse, in the end, was one of those prime movers."

Rouse was a truly Faustian figure — the grand developer not afraid to engage with the "creative destruction" inherent in his calling and one who realised sufficiently large scale plans as to reveal in all its problematic glory much of the tragedy of contemporary capitalist urban development.

David Harvey

*Bart Harvey, chairman and chief executive of the Enterprise Foundation, writes: James Rouse charmed from an early age. He talked his way on to a ship as an escort for elderly ladies to get a free education in Hawaii. He paid for law school by convincing a car parking operator of his supreme qualifications — except that he couldn't drive. "If life gives you lemons," he said, "make lemonade."*

Jim always believed that business was there to serve human need. If the business organisation offered the opportunity for its people to reach their fulfillment, profits would result. Throughout the building of Columbia and the growth of the Rouse Company, Jim was actively involved in civic and voluntary activities, serving or chairing housing task forces for four presidents, deeply involved in the world federalist movement and an active supporter of civil rights work. Sleep was not an option. Catnaps came whenever he could no longer over-ride nature. Once while he was driving, he asked me to wake him up when the light turned green.

Retirement from the Rouse Company in 1981 was a new beginning. His vision was to help poor people help themselves through the opportunity for decent, affordable housing and a path up and out of poverty. With that vision and hope, he founded the Enterprise Foundation which today works with 650 community-based projects in 153 cities and has provided commitments of grants, loans and equity investments exceeding \$1.7 billion. The Foundation has helped produce more than 61,000 units of housing for very low-income people, one third of whom were either homeless or with special needs.

Jim fought so hard, despite being in considerable pain towards the end, believing that his work wasn't yet finished. He leaves a wife, Patty, three children, three step-children and 16 grandchildren. He is also survived by his ex-wife Elizabeth.

James Wilson Rouse, developer, born April 26, 1914; died April 9, 1996



Dorothy Hyson in 1933... 'the world's new sweetheart' said Cary Grant

Dorothy Hyson

## The most beautiful girl in the world

DOROTHY Hyson, who has died aged 81, was a much admired beauty on stage and screen in the 1930s and 1940s, and one of the best loved figures of the theatre world. She was born in Chicago, the daughter of celebrated American ballroom dancers Carl Hyson and Dorothy Dickson. When she was three, her mother became a Broadway star in Jerome Kern's *Oh, Boy!*, dancing with her husband. They then came to London, where Dickson established herself as one of the great musical-comedy stars of the age in Kern's *Sally and Gershwin's Top-Toes*. When her parents separated in 1923 "Little Dot" as she was affectionately known remained in this country with her mother.

Hyson's childhood in England was as she later told her husband, Anthony Quayle, "very inadequate and unhappy". It was mostly spent at boarding schools in the home counties, far from the backstage world she had known in New York. However, she already had the theatre in her blood when she appeared in *J.M. Barrie's Quality Street* at the Savoy at the age of 12, playing one of the children. Her performance in *Daisy Ashford's The Young Visitors* the following year attracted the attention of critic James Agate who predicted that she would be "the comedienne of the future".

Finishing school in Paris, and holidays in the South of France with her glamorous mother — they were often assumed to be sisters — quickly got Hyson offers for films. She appeared in such early British talkies as *Soldiers of the King* (1933), *The Ghoul* (1933), with Boris Karloff and Ralph Richardson, and *Sing as We Go* (1934) with Gracie Fields. She impressed Cary Grant so much that he called her "the world's new sweetheart" and "the most beautiful girl in the world." Indeed, Rogers and Hart's hit song called exactly that was said to have been inspired by her blue eyes, blonde hair, and fragile singing and dancing style. (*The most beautiful star in the world! Isn't Garbo, isn't Dietrich! But the sweet trick! Who can make me believe it's a beautiful world!*)

On stage Hyson appeared in Ivor Novello's *Flies in the Sun*, Maxwell Anderson's *Saturday's Children*, Dodie Smith's *Touch Wood* and Keith Winter's *Ringmaster*. That spring, Hyson married the actor Robert Douglas. Later the same year they appeared together on Broadway in *Meet Me at the Movies*. In the 1938 Old Vic production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, she proved a spirited Titania. During the war, Hyson appeared in a revue, *Let's Face It*, with Michael Wildgen and Mary Malochu followed by several comedy roles before she achieved her greatest success as Emily Strachan in Roland Pertwee's *Pink String And Sewing Wax*. During the first post-war season, Hyson played Lady Windermere in John Gielgud's production of Wilde's *Lady Windermere's Fan*. Cecil Beaton designed the sets and costumes and when Hyson refused to wear the dress he had designed for Act 1, "I was upset out of all proportion," he wrote.

In 1948 Hyson was divorced from Douglas, and two years later married Anthony Quayle. They had first met in 1936 when Hyson was playing Jane Bennet in a version of *Pride And Prejudice* at the St James's Theatre. Quayle, who played Mr Wickham, later remembered that he thought Hyson in her Rex Whistler gown "the most beautiful creature I had ever seen". Hyson retired from the stage to devote herself to family life; the Quayles had three children, Rosanna, Jennifer (Jenny, now a successful actress, the third generation), and Christopher. When Quayle was appointed director of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford, his wife was active behind the scenes. "Without her I could have been nothing, done nothing," he wrote in his autobiography *A Time To Speak*. In September 1986, Dorothy Dickson died, aged 102, one of the legendary figures from the now so distant dancing 1920s. Sir Anthony Quayle died in 1989. He described his wife's beauty and allure as being "like coming into brilliant sunshine after the darkness of a chrysopeum... It was not only her beauty that possessed me. It was a radiant lightness of heart."

### Weekend Birthdays

**ONLY** 39 today and Alastair Campbell (right) races along the corridors of power with a still-boyish step in the tug-gish service of the relatively elderly Tony Blair. 48. But he has packed a lot into that young life.

Comprehensive and Cambridge-educated, the middle-class son of a vet, Campbell is still passionately devoted to Burnley FC and to the Labour Party. Less predictably, he emerged from Rupert Allason's recent (faded) libel action as the pen behind a former Miss Glopko, a contributor to *Forum* magazine. This time next year he will be Blair's Downing Street press secretary. If the voters embrace the modernisers. Progressives of all stripes must wish him well in a vital task: squaring or squashing the media. *The Fleet Street* shark trials and grunts from day one to provoke the Campbell temper, or harsh, even witty words he may regret. Like many beleaguered Labour press flaks in the past, prickly Joe Haines for instance, he regards anyone not 110 percent pro Blair as a potential enemy. Aily must learn to settle for less. And actually he is better at charming than at bullying. Gigolos usually are.

**Today's other birthdays:** Lord Alldridge, barrister, former chairman, Sun Alliance, 38; Liliana Archibald, expert on banking law, 68; Kim Bailey, racehorse trainer, 43; Alastair Burt MP, under-secretary of state for Social Security, 41; Julian Clary, comedian and actor, 37; Barry Cox, director, ITV cricket umpire, 52; Rosemary Hooper, former Conservative minister, 57; David Jenkins, athlete, 44; Sir Ian McKellen, actor, 57; Geoffrey Robinson, Labour MP, 58; Beverley Sills, operatic soprano and manager, 67; Dave Lee Travis, disc jockey, 51; David Wynne, sculptor, 70.

**Tomorrow's birthdays:** Susan Baird, former Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant of Glasgow, 58; Helena Bonham-Carter, actress, 30; Gill Cole-ridge, literary agent, 48; Jeremy Corbyn, Labour MP, 47; Roy Dotrice, actor, 71; Sir David English, chairman and editor-in-chief, Associated Newspapers, 65; Sir Peter Fry, Conservative MP, 65; Tony Green, chairman Guinness, 58; Alan Hollinghurst, novelist, 42; Prof Walter Laqueur, historian, former director, Wiener Library, 75; Peggy Lee, singer, lyricist, 76; Alec McCowen, actor, 71; Prof William McBarry, scholar of Hebrew, 57; Steven Nicks, rock singer, 48; Zola Pisteris (née Bould), runner, 30; Michael Portillo MP, Secretary of State for Defence, 43; Prof Sally Ride, American astronaut and physicist, 45; Ian Sparks, director, The Children's Society, 52; Lord Stevens of Ludgate, chairman, United Newspapers, 60; Philip Treacy, fashion designer, 29.

### Ryan Worrall

RYAN WORRAL, who has died aged 83, was a doctor, a philosopher of science and a free spirit, writes Walter Emdin. His books *The Outlook of Science and Footsteps of War-fare*, published in the thirties and *Energy And Matter* (1948) were commended by Einstein. Worrall, who didn't fit into any party, also made an important contribution to early British Trotskyism.

Born in Australia, Worrall went to Russia as the correspondent of the Australian Labour Party's daily paper. He left the Soviet Union for Britain in 1927, joining in succession the Labour, the Independent Labour and Communist parties. As a delegate to the CP's 1929 congress he was so influenced by the wild "third period" line — which, emanating from Stalin, labelled social democrats "social fascists" — that he advocated armed struggle in Britain and Germany. He was suspected of being a police spy, and expelled.

A visit to pre-Hitler Germany convinced him of the futility of third period politics — which aided the Nazi takeover. Back in Britain he joined the small band of British Trotskyists and was one of the first to consider that the

Soviet Union was a "state capitalist" society. During the second world war he served as Brighton's medical officer of health. He before being dismissed from his post for putting out a leaflet objecting to the suicidal policy of sending evacuee children "to the front line". He was reinstated after a German bomb killed several children there during a cinema matinée.

Worrall devoted himself to scientific research, being particularly interested in the relationship between dialectics and the methodology of scientific understanding. In the thirties he had corresponded with Trotsky on the subject.

Postwar he devoted himself to scientific research, being particularly interested in the relationship between dialectics and the methodology of scientific understanding. In the thirties he had corresponded with Trotsky on the subject.

DEPTFORD, Anthony Leslie, of Truro, Cornwall died peacefully at home on the 24th May. Much loved husband of Frances and Michael, father of Rosita, Chris and Michael. Family funeral, Memorial service to be arranged. Donations if desired, International St. James Hospice, 40, Broad Street, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3PR.

PERMOCK, Jack, on May 20th 1996 aged 76. Christian, ex-Burton Coalfield Community at 15-John on 21st May, followed by a thanksgiving service at St James Hill, Four Church Hill. All who knew him are well come to the funeral. Donations if desired, International St. James Hospice, 40, Broad Street, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3PR.

To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4557. Fax 0171 713 4129.

## Getting in the holiday Spirit

**HUGO SLIM**

Whitsun is the peculiarly English name for the Feast of Pentecost — the day we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit which descended "like the rush of a mighty wind", and settled like "tongues of fire" upon the disciples. Coming 50 days after Easter (the Greek word "pentecost" means 50th) this event transformed the disciples from a timid, confused and leaderless band into a formidable collection of confident, determined and multilingual preachers ready to take on the world.

A popular time for baptisms in medieval England, the Feast of Pentecost became known as Whitsun, or White Sunday, because of the white robes worn by those being baptised. In contrast, Pentecost was known as the Red Feast throughout the rest of Europe — a reminder that Britain has

been at odds with Europe before now. Unusually for a joyful high feast, the liturgical colour for the Feast of Pentecost is red in remembrance of the tongues of fire.

Whitsun or Pentecost is thus the great feast of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity: the "comforter" and "counsellor" who works within us and between us to bring about God's kingdom. This language used to describe the Holy Spirit in the Gospels sounds, at first hearing, very contemporary. Indeed, it seems to make this person of the Trinity the most appealing. At a time when many claim masculinity is in crisis, and images of fatherhood and sonship are regarded with some unease, the Holy Spirit is in some ways the most accessible person of the Godhead.

But to equate the Spirit with gentleness alone would be a

mistake. The Holy Spirit is a force to be reckoned with. It is also responsible for such weird behaviour? The challenge is to distinguish between spiritual ecstasy and good hysteria. There is a simple test for the Holy Spirit: one knows it by its fruits. The Christian feast of Pentecost was born out

of the ancient Jewish feast of Shavuot, the festival which celebrates the "first fruits" of the agricultural season and the giving of the Ten Commandments. For Christians, Pentecost celebrates the Spirit as the first fruits of the kingdom of Heaven.

There are seven gifts of the

Holy Spirit and 13 fruits. The gifts are wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, reverence, wonder and awe. The fruits are: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity. If Whitsun can still dictate the

prices in our car parks, then surely the Holy Spirit can continue to inspire these fruits.

HUGO SLIM is the author of *A Feast of Festivals: Celebrating the Spiritual Seasons of the Year* and Senior Lecturer in Humanities at Oxford Brookes University



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dear Lt. Tripler: I understand you're the morale officer for Operation Joint Endeavor.

Here's my situation: A few months ago, I was living a safe, comfortable life at home with my new girlfriend...

Today my life is nothing but stress, rain and a grim, alien culture. Plus I just found out my girlfriend's leaving me. I'm totally bummed. Any advice?

Have you tried table tennis? Most units have a facility.

Never mind.

# Money Guardian

## Home sweet home loan at 0 per cent

Forget warnings by the Old Lady and get in while you can. IAN WYLIE looks at the options

**B**ORROWERS should not be deterred from exploiting mortgage giveaways despite warnings this week that they could be storing up trouble for the future.

Would-be home owners, or those considering switching their home loans to cut repayments, should not shun a discounted offer for fear that the latest price war could be a closing down sale after the Bank of England slated cut-price mortgage deals. Loans are currently on offer at an astonishing rate of 0 per cent, and borrowers can collect cashbacks of up to £12,000.

The Old Lady is worried that borrowers could sink under a mountain of debt after the discount period ends and repayments leap to a standard variable interest rate—particularly if interest rates have started to rise again.

The building societies' chief watchdog, Geoffrey Fitchew, delivered a similar message to lenders last week. But banks and building societies are thumbing their noses at their watchdogs, claiming that, under current competitive pressures, dropping bargain rates and cashbacks would be commercial suicide. "We are in a competitive market place and, for as long as that is the case, no lender will risk withdrawing its competitive prod-

ucts," said Woolwich spokesman Charles Crouch. The Woolwich—currently offering cashbacks of up to £5,000—also rejects the Bank's charge of easing credit checks. "It is very important that lenders rate the borrower's ability to pay back the whole mortgage, not just over the discounted period," says Mr Crouch.

N&P, which is currently offering a 0 per cent mortgage until the end of the year, is equally unrepentant. "We have every intention of continuing our range of mortgage deals until we merge with the Abbey National later this year," says N&P marketing director David Conway.

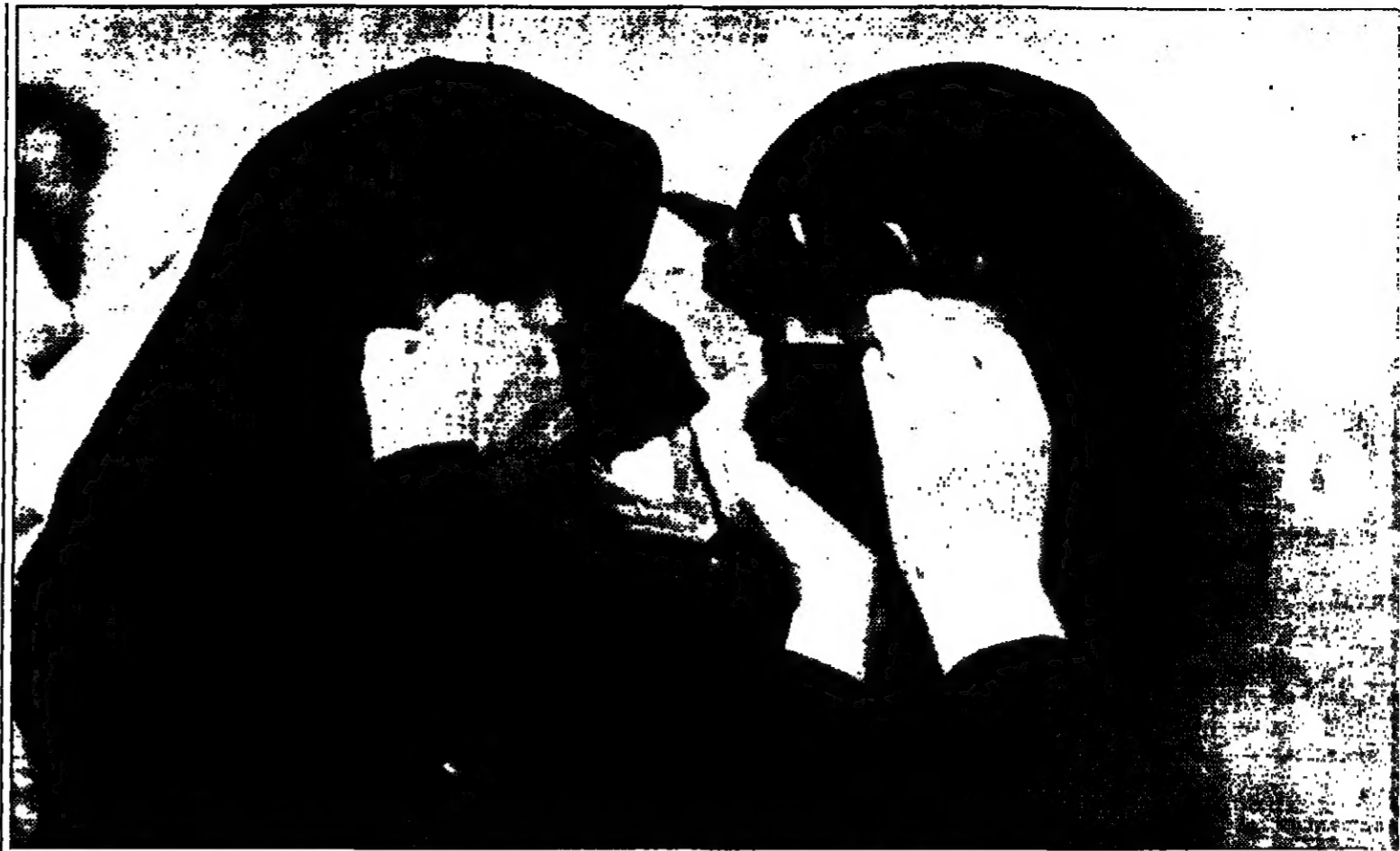
The country's largest mortgage lender, the Halifax, did try to buck the market last November when it withdrew its range of cashback mortgages but was forced to re-introduce them quietly in February due to "public demand".

However, some lenders are scaling down their promotion of short-term fixed rates. Bradford and Bingley contin-

### Best deals

National & Provincial	0%
Hinkley & Rugby	0.11%
Scarborough	0.05%
Principality	1.00%
Nationwide	1.89%

These rates last for one year or less



Lifting the veil... European investment banks are putting together packages designed to appeal to Muslim savers

## Growing interest in Islam

**U**RSURY is contrary to Islam. The Holy Koran is explicit on that point. But what exactly is usury? Conventional Islamic wisdom has taken it to mean fixed interest in any form.

However, two years ago the theological academy in Saudi Arabia issued a fatwa, or edict, on investment banking. This ruled that, within limits, investment in stocks and shares was permissible under Shariah—Islamic law.

Now strategists at European investment banks have begun to respond to

this opportunity and several are putting together products to appeal to Muslim savers. First off the mark in the UK is merchant bank Flemings with the launch of its own equity investment fund which complies with the new interpretation of Shariah.

To ensure that Oasis, its Islamic fund, is fully compatible with Shariah law the bank has set up a supervisory board of three Islamic scholars, which must oversee not only every investment in the fund but also the way it conducts its business.

The board will decide whether investing in partic-

ular companies is *halal* (acceptable) or *haram* (forbidden). The fund, which sets a minimum investment of \$50,000 (£34,000) is aimed at the Muslim community in Britain.

It will select its investments from the 2,600 international companies which make up the Morgan Stanley Capital Index, after weeding out companies engaged in activities such as money lending, manufacturing alcoholic drinks and gambling, or firms that trade with hefty borrowings, leaving around 1,000 companies including Toyota, Cable & Wireless, and drug companies such as Roche.

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## Why top insurers give customers a raw deal

**Teresa Hunter and Jill Papworth**

**I**NSURANCE companies are continuing to short change their customers through unacceptably high charges, according to a new survey published by leading actuaries this week.

As Virgin Direct, the financial services arm of Richard Branson's Virgin Group, launches low-cost life assurance, actuaries have pointed the finger at a number of companies which have provided consistently poor returns for their customers.

Household names such as Eagle Star, Prudential, Royal, Colonial, Scottish Amicable and Sun Life have all delivered poor returns to their with-profits policyholders, according to the survey.

One measure of whether customers are getting a raw deal lies with the impact charges make on investment

returns—otherwise known as the reduction in yield. This shows that the Guardian Insurance Company pockets 8.1 per cent per year from any investment growth on 10-year pensions policies.

Given that few companies would expect consistently to earn much more than 10 per cent annually on investments this leaves less than a meagre 2 per cent for the policyholder.

Tunbridge Wells and Wesleyan each keep 6 per cent annually on charges—although the Wesleyan's past performance on pensions generally is good. By contrast, however, Equitable Life charges only 1.4 per cent and the CIS 2.1 per cent on 10-year pensions—against typical charges of 4 and 5 per cent.

Actuary John Jenkins, one of the insurance world's number crunchers at KPMG, said: "With this level of charges, customers really need to ask themselves whether these 10-year policies are worth buy-

### What to look for

**TERM ASSURANCE:** Best value life insurance which pays out only on death within a pre-determined period—usually five, 10 or 15 years.

**WITH-PROFITS LIFE or ENDOWMENT:** combines basic life assurance with a savings plan. Pays out an agreed sum on death within a pre-determined term—or an investment lump sum at the end of the term, known as maturity value.

**WITH-PROFITS PENSIONS:** Premiums taken from tax-free earnings accumulate through the addition of annual bonuses and an additional terminal bonus. Investments can be made either via single premium policies or regular premiums.

ing. Unless they opt for good value companies like the Equitable, it could be argued that they might do better looking elsewhere.

Charges on 25-year endowment and pensions contracts are more reasonable—but policyholders must stay the full course to avoid being heavily penalised by early sur-

render charges. Again, the Equitable leads the attack with reduction in yields on its 25-year endowments of 0.5 per cent and pensions at 0.8 per cent. Most other companies charge somewhere between 1 and 2 per cent—but even on a 25-year pension policy Guardian pockets 4.7 per cent of the investment growth.

Virgin boss Richard Branson has pledged to undercut the insurance giants when he launches life assurance policies over the telephone. He also plans to offer pensions before the end of the year.

The group's aim in the life and pensions arena is to repeat the success it has had with personal equity plans where it has £225 million under management—having taken some 6 per cent of all new Peps sold since it entered the market just over a year ago.

Roman Cizdyn, insurance analyst with Merrill Lynch, says: "Mr Branson won't have the same clear run as Direct Line did when it entered the motor insurance market. The established insurers have woken up to the impact of this sort of competition and have taken steps to make sure they won't get caught out again."

But as the KPMG survey shows, competition may not be all that tough. The report

adopted the gold standard, recommended last year by the Office of Fair Trading, when assessing an individual company's past performance and future projections. The OFT suggested that companies should receive grades, as students do in exams, for a variety of achievements.

Eagle Star, Prudential and Royal Life all score poorly, with CCC for maturity and surrender values on 10-year endowment policies. Similarly, over 25 years, Colonial, Scottish Amicable and Sun Life all score CCC.

However, General Accident, Commercial Union, Equitable Life and Scottish Widows score well across a broad range of endowment and pension products.

Virgin is initially offering protection-only term insurance policies with a choice of death benefits. Monthly premiums start at 35 paid via direct debit. Quotes will be available from June 9.

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Plan to cut 600 jobs in run-up to sale prompts safety fear ● Warning of 'decisive and immediate' action

# Nuclear unions talk strike

Chris Barrie

**A** STRIKE threat last night hung over the soon-to-be-privatised nuclear industry as plans emerged showing that up to half of Nuclear Electric's headquarters staff, including people in key safety jobs, could be sacked.

With the Government finalising plans for the summer sale, trade unions warned yesterday that any attempt to cut jobs without regard for safety would be met with 'decisive and immediate' action. Nuclear Electric managers

are contemplating redundancies for up to 600 people, half of the staff, at the company's headquarters in Barnwood, Gloucestershire.

One insider said the industry had already shed 35 per cent of its staff in the run-up to privatisation. Now cuts may be contemplated in areas such as research and development. Research is considered a safety-related activity because breakdown in an atomic reactor needs swift technical investigation.

The industry's advanced gas-cooled reactors have suffered persistent problems in the past year as managers have fought to raise output

ahead of the sale. But the company is under mounting pressure to cut costs in order to persuade sceptical investors to back the sell-off.

Analysis released this week by the stockbroker EZV, adviser to the Government on the sale, cut the value of the industry by £700 million to between £1.7 billion and £2.1 billion, but said at least £40 million could be saved by 1989 through reductions in staffing at stations and administrative overheads.

Tony Cooper, general secretary of the Engineers and Managers Association, warned that his members were "in the front line" when

there were safety problems. "If there were to be any threat to safety, our response would be decisive and immediate." Because his members were engineers and scientists in the industry, the union was in a strong position to assess the threat to safety of wide-scale job cuts.

British Energy, the holding company of Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, said there were no job cuts "in train or announced" beyond those already made public. The company declined to comment on longer-term cost-cutting at Nuclear Electric.

Scottish Nuclear said that 70 jobs were to go from its staff

this year. It also declined to discuss longer-term plans.

The industry is trying to squeeze longer operating times out of its nuclear reactors. The sale prospectus, due to be published in mid-June, will highlight the potential for boosting revenues by extending the lives of the seven advanced gas-cooled reactors and the Sizewell B pressurised water reactor. The company will also cite extra revenue to be had by reducing the time needed to service reactors.

Trade and Industry Secretary Ian Lang and his Opposition shadow, Margaret Beckett, clashed yesterday over the privatisation.

Mr Lang rejected Labour's call for the sale to be postponed, but admitted that crucial actuarial advice on the "segregated fund" — to pay for decommissioning reactors — had yet to be finalised. The Government has already decided, however, that the fund will need only £16 million a year from British Energy.

Mrs Beckett said it was "increasingly clear" that the Government was unable to reassure taxpayers they would not pick up the bill for the sell-off.

● The Health and Safety Executive has allowed the elderly Magnox reactor at Dungeness, Kent, to continue operation for another 10 years.

## Saturday Notebook

### Doubt creeps into Dow celebration



Edited by Alex Brummer

**T**HERE is likely to be much focus on the 100th birthday tomorrow of the Dow Jones Industrial Index, which for much of the past century has been the bell-weather of Anglo-Saxon capitalism. Certainly, it hasn't disappointed much in 1989, having touched a record 5778 on Wednesday and barely drawing breath since.

What is starting to obsess US analysts is the approaching presidential election. The second such contest, won by one George Washington in 1792, coincided with the foundation of the New York Stock Exchange, so there is a wealth of historical data.

Every US election year since 1869 has been positive for equities. If records are examined for the two years ahead of a presidential election, it is found that shares — as measured by the broadly used S&P 500 — outperform cash and bonds.

Clearly, there has been nothing to disturb the peace so far this year, apart from a couple of spikes in the employment numbers and the turmoil at Fidelity Investments' Magellan Fund with the departure of Jeffrey Vinik amid complaints about performance.

The sharp Clinton focus on the economy, which won for him in 1992 ("It's the economy, stupid") and the flow through in the shape of reduced budget deficits have even won over some traditional Wall Street barons. Not those at Brown Brothers Harriman & Co, the most blue-blooded of US investment houses, however.

In its latest market assessment, Brown Brothers expresses concern that the strength of Bill Clinton's lead over Bob Dole could bring Congress back to the Democrats in November. This, in the broker's view, would raise questions about the seriousness of the Democrats in bringing the deficit down below \$200 billion a year.

It believes the deficit outlook is crucial, in that the bull market has been based on the belief that the demand for financial capital from the public sector is on a downward path. Thus far so good, with public spending for the 1997 financial year showing a 3 per cent real decline. That is good news; but it may not remain so if President Clinton's spending itch is freed from the likes of Newt Gingrich.

tion of order-driven trading for stock in the companies which make up the FTSE 100 index. Why not look at the tax regime at the same time?

Mr Clarke might, however, have been better advised to have gone for a more radical approach. Order-driven trading in the FTSE 100 will reduce the market-making capacity required within the City. Would it not have been better, therefore, simply to abolish the tax on share deals? That would have redeemed a manifesto pledge and might also have boosted stock market turnover, including in those non-FTSE 100 shares on which market-makers will have to focus.

### Insurance risks

**T**HE pending merger between the Royal Insurance and the Sun Alliance has created a great deal of excitement in the financial community. The broker Salamons Brothers has been among those to wax lyrical, pointing out that the "proposed executive team is commendably lean".

But is it? Whereas up to 5,000 other employees are to lose their jobs at the two companies, both chief executives, Roger Taylor and Richard Gamble, keep theirs, the former as executive deputy chairman and the latter as chief executive.

In fact, of all the executives on the two existing boards there is scarcely one who does not make it on to the management board of the new Royal Sun Alliance: a point which is now being scrutinised by institutional investors.

Certainly, in any normal merger — look at Granada/Forst — the executives normally take a great deal of the pain. There is no point in doubling up on executive salaries — which have been increasing by leaps and bounds. A poorly designed Royal/Sun Alliance merger also will set bad precedents for those which come next, as they surely will.

A quick look down the table of the free-asset ratios of insurance companies, produced by actuaries at KPMG, illustrates why more insurance groups can be expected to change ownership.

It is generally assumed that a comfortable free-asset ratio is 5 per cent or above, with market leaders like Standard Life up at 13.7 per cent. Among those in the weaker zones are Clerical Medical, already bought by the Halifax; Equitable Life (which is right on the 5 per cent margin); Friends Provident at 3 per cent and Scottish Mutual at 4.2 per cent. Norwich Union, at 7.3 per cent, is contemplating conversion to plc status to raise extra capital. The others, meanwhile, await the arrival of suitable white knights.

### Share wheeze

**C**HANCELLOR Kenneth Clarke has asked the Securities and Investments Board to look at the exemption enjoyed by the City market-making firms from paying stamp duty on share deals.

The thinking behind Mr Clarke's move is that the exemption is a privilege and he wants to be sure that those who receive it are putting something back in terms of liquidity and price-setting.

The timing, too, might seem reasonable. The way share dealing in the City is carried out is undergoing change, not least in the planned introduction of a new clearing system.

The New Orleans decision emphasised the difficulty of prevailing against the tobacco industry in the courts. Cigarette makers have yet to pay a penny in damages and this week's victory represented a huge boost for a \$45 billion (£30.4 billion) industry.

### Co-op farmers leaner and greener after 100 years

**M**aryn Halsall, Northern Industrial Correspondent

**B**RITAIN'S biggest farmer, which ploughed its first furrow 100 years ago on 714 acres it bought for £30,000, yesterday celebrated its centenary with record profits and the largest managed landholding in its history.

The harvest of figures for CWS Agriculture, the farming arm of the Co-op, saw profits grow from £4.7 million to £5.6 million in 1989/90, on a turnover of £28 million. The results underlined an agricultural revolution.

The company whose first estate, at Roden, Shropshire, was transferred in June 1986, now works more than 50,000 acres on 25 farms.

Nearly 80 years ago, 28 cloth-capped and overalled men brought in the harvest at Coldham, Cambridgeshire.

The standing of most city centres has fallen, however. Sheffield dropped down the Hillier Parker rankings from ninth in 1984 to 23rd last year. Of these cities, only Birmingham has clung on, ranking fourth last year compared to second in 1984.

### Tourist rates - bank sells

Australia 1 8500	France 7.83	Italy 2.315	Singapore 2.08
Austria 15.91	Germany 3.282	Netherlands 2.5350	South Africa 6.41
Belgium 46.44	Greece 360.50	New Zealand 2.15	Sweden 10.19
Canada 2.02	Hong Kong 11.40	Norway 8.73	Switzerland 1.828
Cyprus 0.6950	India 52.86	Portugal 23.50	Turkey 112.828
Denmark 8.77	Ireland 0.9400	Saudi Arabia 5.84	USA 1.4790
Finland 7.12	Israel 4.94		

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel)

## Capital cuts by factory chiefs

Sarah Ryle

**F**RESH evidence that the factory sector is struggling emerged yesterday when official figures showed that manufacturers reduced capital expenditure in the first three months of the year.

Factory chiefs spent 2 per cent less than they did in the last three months of 1989, according to the Office for National Statistics.

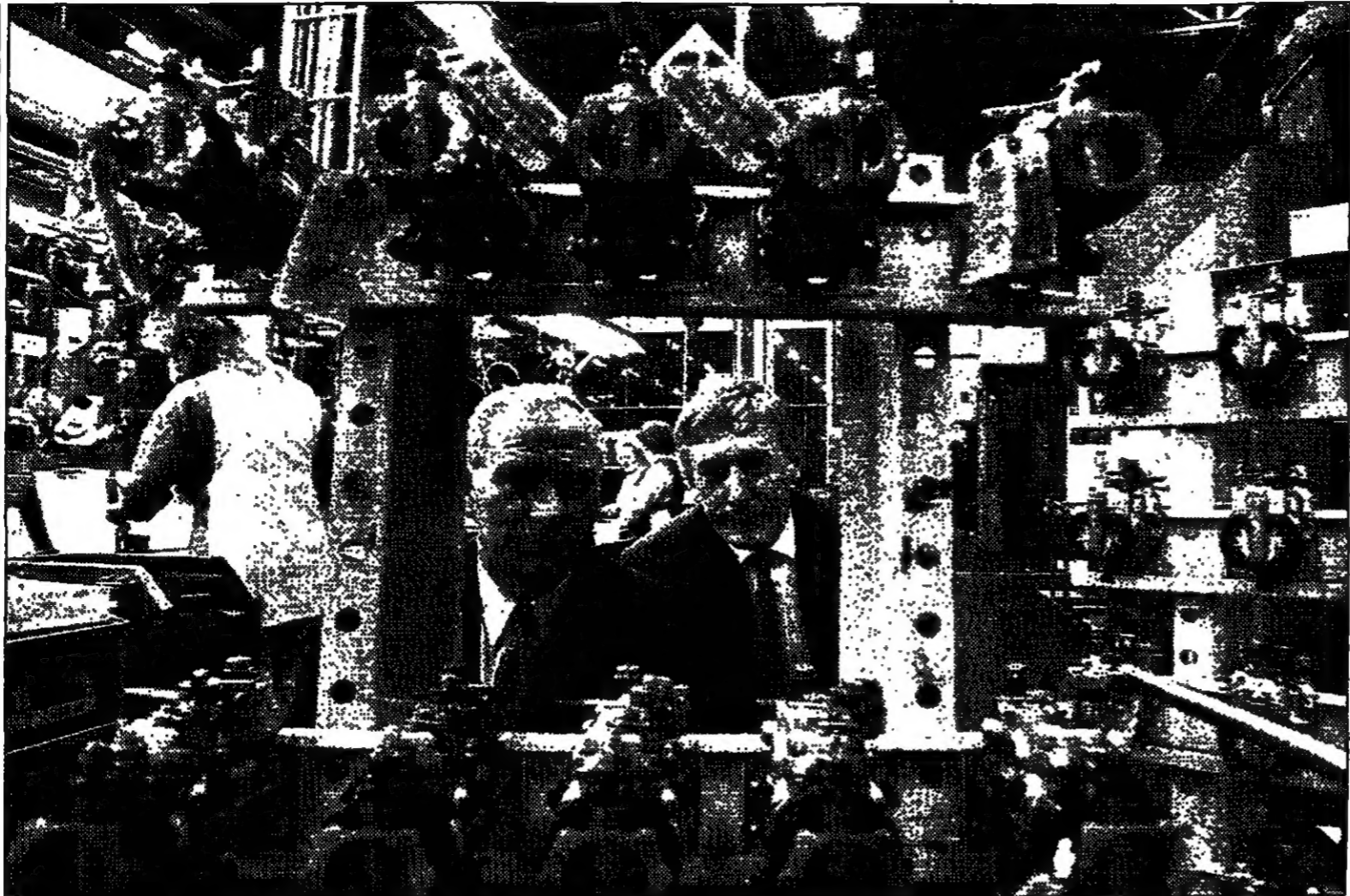
Capital spending is regarded as a useful indicator of manufacturers' expectations because it includes provision for expansion of production. It has now fallen for the second quarter in a row.

City analysts said yesterday's data did not tally with latest Confederation of British Industry evidence of fundamentally positive capital spending expectations in the sector.

Despite the quarterly fall in capital spending from £3.145 billion to £3.084 million, the annual rate of growth was still positive and was slightly stronger at 0.8 per cent than in the previous three months.

However, there is still a problem with stock overhang. Factories built up fewer stocks in the first quarter this year than in the previous three months (worth £287 million against £248 million), while wholesalers and retailers registered much stronger stock building.

This suggested that manufacturers may have sold on some stocks to retailers, but it could also indicate why manufacturers' expectations of holding more than adequate stock levels were still high.



Looking good... Lucas chief George Simpson (left) with John Grant, finance director, says talks are 'proceeding well'

## Lucas and Vartny look likely to tie knot

Chris Barrie

**T**HE prospects for a £3 billion merger between motor parts and aerospace group Lucas Industries and the US company Vartny strengthened dramatically yesterday when both companies announced plans to combine. Financial details of the deal were going well.

Although Lucas directors were tight-lipped about the details of the transaction, the company signalled its satisfaction with the negotiations so far amid signs that a full-blown merger, rather than a limited joint venture, is now on the table.

In a formal statement issued ahead of a board meeting convened to consider the Vartny merger, Lucas said the discussions were "proceeding well". But it was "unlikely" that an announcement on an agreement would be made before early June.

Vartny, which owns the Kelsey-Hayes brakes business in the US and diesel engine maker Perkins in the UK, agreed discussions were "proceeding well" but refused to comment further.

Advisors acting for Lucas and Vartny are trying to resolve key issues such as the valuation of the two businesses. On the basis of market capitalisation, Lucas shareholders could expect to hold just over 60 per cent of the combined group's equity.

Lucas chief executive George Simpson is known to favour the deal as a way of boosting Lucas's global standing as a motor components supplier. Vartny would also give Lucas a strong American foothold.

Vartny's chief executive, Victor Roca, is tipped to be chief executive of the combined group while Lucas chairman Sir Brian Pearce would become chairman. Mr Simpson has already said he is joining GEC later this year.

Lucas shares closed 2p down at 235p.

## New Indonesian policy riles foreign car firms

John Agnolby in Jakarta

**F**OREIGN motor manufacturers are threatening to quit Indonesia unless President Suharto reconsiders the country's new national car policy, which they claim is against World Trade Organisation (WTO) regulations.

Yesterday, the American Automobile Manufacturers Association (AAMA) joined the chorus of local car makers, Japanese firms and the European Union in demanding that Jakarta revoke the preferential treatment given to PT Timor Putra Nasional, a company run by President Suharto's youngest son, Hutomo Mandala Putra.

Under the new scheme, Timor Putra will be exempt from paying the 100-200 per cent import tax on car components and the 25-35 per cent luxury sales duty when its

Timor cars, produced in co-operation with Kia Motor Corp of South Korea, rolls off the assembly line. This is scheduled for September.

Under the arrangements Timor Putra will be able to undercut its rivals by up to 50 per cent. Car sales in Indonesia have slumped since the programme was announced in February as many people are waiting to buy the Timor car.

According to AAMA president Andrew Card, the policy is protectionist and a regressive step for Indonesia's recent de-regulatory programme.

He said: "Indonesia was on the road to success, but has now put up a stop sign. The new national car programme appears to signal a change in direction from its good record on de-regulation and promotion of free market principles."

The AAMA is the trade association for Chrysler, the

Ford Motor Company and General Motors, which has its only plant for right hand drive Chevrolet Blazer trucks in Indonesia.

"We hope that the flawed national car programme will be re-visited and that there will be an effort to bring the programme into compliance with the world trading system," Mr Card added.

The national car policy has also drawn criticism from Japan and European Union trade commissioner Sir Leon Brittan, who said during a visit to Jakarta last month that it was contrary to Indonesia's obligation under the World Trade Agreement.

Japan's ministry of trade and industry also argues that the national car programme breaches WTO rules. Indonesia and Japan's bilateral talks to try and solve their differences have proved inconclusive. No government has raised the case at the WTO yet.

## Smokers to extend legal contest across 50 states

Mark Tran in New York

**L**AWYERS representing smokers yesterday prepared to do battle in all 50 states after a federal court in New Orleans threw out a huge class action suit against the tobacco industry on behalf of millions of smokers.

Undeterred by the New Orleans setback, a consortium of nearly 60 plaintiffs' lawyers will continue its legal fight by filing new class action suits in every state.

"We do have Plan B for this contingency," said John Coale, a lawyer speaking on behalf of the plaintiffs. "We would have liked to have won this decision, but we're not going to go away."

The three appeal judges in New Orleans handed the tobacco industry an important victory on Thursday, when they ruled against an attempt to bring lawsuits into a single class representing virtually every smoker who claims to have become addicted to nicotine.

In a unanimous verdict, the judges asserted that the Castano case — named after the lead defendant — would be too unwieldy and that there were too many differences between the individual cases.

The court did not touch on the merits of the core accusation from the plaintiffs: cigarette makers knew about the addictive power of nicotine and manipulated nicotine levels to get smokers hooked.

Tobacco shares immediately jumped on the news and yesterday most companies made further advances. Philip Morris, which jumped 36% on Thursday, edged up 1/4 yesterday morning to \$104. The only company to slip was B&W, which dipped 1/4 to \$16 1/2, although in the UK B&W's shares jumped 19p to 521p on the news.

Philip Morris and Brown & Williamson, a BAT subsidiary, both said that the ruling sent a message to other courts against taking up similar class action suits similar to Castano.

"The judicial system was not designed as a lawyer enrichment device, which is becoming the typical result of today's class action lawsuits," said Brown & Williamson.

The New Orleans decision emphasised the difficulty of prevailing against the tobacco industry in the courts. Cigarette makers have yet to pay a penny in damages and this week's victory represented a huge boost for a \$45 billion (£30.4 billion) industry.

## United Friendly opts to back out of motor cover

Pauline Springett

**U**NITED Friendly will not write any new motor insurance business from July 1, although it will continue to honour existing policies.

Group investment director John McLachlan said the decision had been triggered by the current competitive conditions in the motor insurance market.

Mr McLachlan added that United Friendly had a relatively small motor portfolio — representing about one-eighth of its total annual premium income, most of which comes from life insurance. He also acknowledged that although

the motor account had made a small underwriting profit in 1989, it had barely broken even last year.

Mr McLachlan predicted there would be further consolidation within the motor insurance industry. "There are too many players chasing too few customers," he said.

United Friendly's move comes shortly after the revelation that General Accident is looking to a further increase in its motor rates. It raised them by 4 per cent at the beginning of April.

That move followed the announcement that motor insurance market leader Direct Line, the telephone insurance subsidiary of Royal Bank of

Scotland, had seen its half-year profits dive by 90 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Association of British Insurers said that subsidence and bad weather claims had risen sharply in the first three months of the year.

The ABI said that weather damage claims for the UK had risen to £208 million — a rise of 135 per cent compared with the same period last year, while subsidence claims had doubled to £68 million, compared with 1995.

ABI director general Mark Boleat said the figures were disappointing and blamed them on the hot summer and freezing winter.

## Regional malls hit city shopping quality

Roger Cosme

**C**OMPETITION from regional shopping centres has not hit jobs in city centre shops as much as had been thought, according to a study by the economic research organisation CES. But the research shows that the quality of shops in such city centres has declined.

Retail employment in Gateshead and Newcastle was higher in 1993 (the latest date for available census data) than it was in 1984. That was the year before the opening of the MetroCentre, one of the largest and oldest of the regional shopping malls.

At the same time the MetroCentre has employed almost 4,000 people, creating a substantial boost to total shop jobs in the area.

The impact of the Merry Hill centre near Dudley, and Sheffield's Meadowhall mall, which between them employ more than 7,000 people, is less clear.

Shop jobs in Dudley dropped dramatically from 1984 to 1993, but almost 1,000 to just under 1,300. Jobs in Birmingham also slumped, down from almost 12,000 to under 7,000 in the same period. Similarly, Sheffield retail employment dropped from almost 10,000 in 1984 to just over 7,000.

But CES says Sheffield's shopping centre was declining before the opening of Meadowhall. Birmingham had also lost thousands of jobs in the 1980s before the opening of Merry Hill. Employment in Birmingham shops seems to have stabilised at the beginning of the 1990s, while the rate of job losses in Dudley also seems to have slowed down.

The standing of most city centres has fallen, however. Sheffield dropped down the Hillier Parker rankings from ninth in 1984 to 23rd last year. Of these cities, only Birmingham has clung on, ranking fourth last year compared to second in 1984.



Handwritten Arabic calligraphy at the bottom of the page.

# Steady does it, as Dutch bank extends its dykes

Mark Miller in Amsterdam

**T**HE atmosphere in the executive dining suite of ABN Amro's headquarters in Amsterdam echoes the discreet charm of a top restaurant. Black-jacketed waiters slip unobtrusively between the kitchen and the diners who, even in egalitarian Holland, need a tie.

For a brief spell earlier this month, however, Dining Room Number Nine had a different role. Its cool, pastel walls hid a secret. Chunky cutlery and sparkling glassware were confined to drawer and cupboard, to be replaced by phones and faxes.

The room became the safe house from which to conduct the "Taylor" project — ABN Amro's negotiations over the joint venture with the London investment bank NM Rothschild, headed by Sir Evelyn de Rothschild. Even within the two banks, information about the Taylor project was closely held — though the project team's taste for cloak and dagger was limited.

Documents referred to ABN Amro/Taylor, but anyone ringing Mr Taylor's number would have found themselves connected to the Rothschild switchboard. The deal, under

which the two banks will work together to underwrite and distribute shares internationally, was greeted with widespread acclaim when it was finally unveiled.

It was seen as an important step forward in the Dutch group's plans to be a universal bank.

On the commercial banking side, ABN Amro is already up with the world's leaders, while a string of modest acquisitions over the years — Florio Govetti in London, HG Asia, Alfred Berg in Scandinavia — has given it a broadly based equity distribution network.

That, however, has still left the Dutch bank some way short of what the Americans refer to as "the bulge bracket" as far as investment banking is concerned.

As part of its strategy of building up the investment banking side, ABN Amro had earlier run its slide rule over Barings in the wake of the latter's collapse, but the British bank was subsequently sold to another Dutch group, ING. To the chagrin of many ABN Amro executives, most of the Netherlands insists on seeing ING's move as a victory over its Dutch rival — an interpretation which ABN Amro forcefully rejects.

Even ABN Amro would acknowledge, however, that

parts of Barings would have fitted into its investment banking side — though there would have been some hefty overlap, too. The joint venture with Rothschild is unusual among the links between British merchant banks and big continental commercial banks. In that it does not involve the latter taking control, or even a stake in the former.

Was that what ABN Amro wanted, or was that the only way it could tie up with Rothschild? Faced with the question, ABN Amro's petriolar chairman, Jan Kalf, peers quizzically over his spectacles and is then as dismissive as his considerable courtesy permits.

"We were not after the bank, we knew it was not available. We never discussed it; that would have been counter-productive. What we did was work in a particular way to improve further the already very successful working relationship with Rothschild in the international equity markets."

Mr Kalf sees the arrangement as good news for both partners. "The idea was born of working together. Over the years we have done many deals with Rothschild. They have become more and more impressed by our placing capacity, they have a very strong track record to all sorts of big

customers: corporations and, in particular, governments which are considering privatisation."

The link with Rothschild is clearly not the limit of ABN Amro's ambition — though Standard Life's Bank of Scotland stake is not on the shopping list. Asset management is an area in which ABN Amro would like to increase its presence, but Mr Kalf is determined any deals should meet the bank's financial criteria — in other words he sees little prospect, at current prices, of a purchase which would produce the 14 per cent return the bank achieved last year.

He sees no need to change the bank's incremental approach to its expansion. Some of the pieces that make up the bank's strategy are now well established. Others have yet to be proved but, as Mr Kalf says: "So far, so good."

Wilco Hiskind, ABN Amro's top investment banker and the man behind the Rothschild deal, is equally positive that the bank has no need to rush around the world waving a cheque book. "Given the business mix we have today, I have never seen a time when there were so many opportunities from our existing operations."

Why make a big move when every existing business line is booming? he asks.



Prowling patrician... ABN Amro chairman Jan Kalf is looking out for acquisitions

## Stagecoach eyes Swedish bus firm

**S**TAGECOACH, Britain's biggest private bus operator, is considering making a bid for Swedbus, the Swedish bus operator owned by Swedish Railways, which is being privatised for around SKr1 billion (\$36 million).

Stagecoach is among seven firms reported to be interested in Swedbus, including FirstBus — Britain's second-biggest bus operator, formed last year from the merger between GRT and Badgerline — and the Swedish group, EQP.

Swedbus, which controls around 30 per cent of the Swedish bus market and has operations in Denmark, Norway and Finland, enjoyed sales of around SKr3.5 billion (\$385 million) in 1995, notching up profits after tax of about SKr111 million (£10 million).

A Stagecoach spokesman refused to comment on the rumour. However, sources

close to the company confirmed that it was interested in bidding for Swedbus, although developments were at "a very early stage".

Meanwhile, a spokesman for FirstBus said the company was not interested in market rumours. Stagecoach and FirstBus have both been linked in recent weeks with possible bids for private rail franchises.

The sale of Swedbus is part of the privatisation of the Swedish rail network, the door to which was opened in 1995 when the country's parliament in 1988 approved legislation separating infrastructure management from train operations. The model has been copied — superficially at least — by Britain's rail privatisation programme.

In Sweden, the programme has been so successful that the country's airlines have been badly hit on domestic routes, where it is now more popular to take the train.

## Interbrew future cloudy as aristocratic families wage war over group strategy

**B**ELGIAN brewer's global ambition may force a flotation, writes IAN KING

**A**SKED to name the world's third biggest brewer, few would suggest a privately-owned outfit whose founding dynasties trace their brewing origins back to the late 18th century, led alone one based in little Belgium.

Yet Interbrew's products are quaffed in every corner of the globe, and their brands — including Stella Artois, Hoegaarden and Oranjeboom — have crept inexorably into the lexicon of the British drinker, attracting envious glances from rivals only too aware that premium lager is the best market to be in at present.

Interbrew was formed in 1987 from the merger of Belgium's two main breweries, which were dominated by the Jupiler and Stella Artois brands, but the bland Interbrew moniker disguises a proud family heritage.

The three founding families that still control the group, the de Spoelberch, Van Damme and de Mevins clans, are the direct descendants of the blue-blooded Artois and Pledboef families that have dominated the Belgian brewing scene for centuries.

But the families realised that, to survive, a merger was in their best interests, and since 1987 have sought ways to build on that base.

The deal that has propelled Interbrew into one of the giants of world brewing was completed last July, doubling the company's size and turnover at a stroke and rewriting the Belgian corporate record books.

In an audacious \$2.7 billion (£1.3 billion) swoop that startled many observers, Interbrew snatched up John Labatt, the Canadian brewer, from under the noses of sev-

eral rivals, including — it is thought — Carlsberg.

Since then, it has wasted no time in stripping Labatt down to its essentials. The group's broadcasting assets were first to go, sold to a management buy-out team and raising \$650 million (\$288 million).

But the sales have, to an extent, been forced on Interbrew. In buying Labatt, the group incurred debts of \$1.6 billion, much of which was arranged on a short-term basis. The need to service this debt has raised suggestions, strongly denied, that the company, been forced to seek a stock market flotation.

Equally pressing, in the view of Interbrew's critics, is its need to thrash out a convincing global strategy. Although it has plenty of strong brands, with the list now headed by Labatt's and Rolling Rock since last year's deal, Interbrew has not got one individual "powerhouse" name similar to its global rivals — names like Miller, Budweiser and Heineken.

More seriously, all of the successful brand-building completed on behalf of the group has been done by other companies, such as the way Whitbread has built up Stella Artois in Britain.

Last week Interbrew signed a similar licensing agreement with Whitbread for the Labatt brands, suggesting it intends to continue doing business in this way.

This may not be enough. A reported row over strategy with the shareholding families has already lost Interbrew its highly-rated Dutch chief executive, Hans Meerloo, who quit late last year.

Mr Meerloo had been credited with successfully developing the group's international expansion since it was formed, and, with industry gossip suggesting the row has not subsided with his departure, observers are again raising questions about Interbrew's future.

Although the group denies it, a flotation may yet be brewing.

## Phones fraud fear in Greece

**C**ONTRACT placed by the state monopoly OTE is subject of magistrate inquiry

**T**HE Greek authorities appointed an investigating magistrate this week to look into allegations of fraud in the granting of a contract to supply digital switching systems to the state-owned telephone monopoly, OTE.

The case involves a 1988 decision by OTE to grant a contract to Greece's Intracom and Germany's Siemens to supply the public utility with more than one million digital switching systems worth more than \$6 billion drachmas (\$138 million).

A judicial council, made up of appeal court judges, appointed magistrates Giorgos Nafliotis to determine if there was any fraud involved and if charges should be brought

against the two companies.

Socrates Korkas, the chairman of Intracom, and the Greek subsidiary of Siemens have both accused their competitors of using the local press and some politicians to instigate the investigation.

They have said that the allegations are groundless and are designed to prevent the two companies from bidding for further contracts.

OTE will make decisions this year on a one trillion drachmas (\$2.7 billion) modernisation plan that includes the purchase of two million digital switches.

Siemens said further delays in implementing the plan would force it to stop production in Greece by the end of the year.

Intracom and the various companies that make up its group are the leading suppliers of telecommunications equipment and related software in Greece with sales of more than 266 million.



Parisian protesters remind Chirac that election battle cry was to defend jobs — not destroy them

**T**HE Parisian protester wearing a Jacques Chirac mask bears a banner reading: "Let's declare war on unemployment" — a reminder of the French president's election pledge to tackle France's unemployment problem.

Workers took to the streets of the French capital on Thursday in protest against government plans to reduce France's public sector deficit

by cutting jobs. Support for the unions' calls for a day of action was reported to be patchy elsewhere in France.

Press reports suggest that the French government is seeking about 25,000 job cuts as part of its campaign to meet the debt and deficit criteria for monetary union laid down in the Maastricht treaty.

Unions, keen to see the govern-

ment redeem pledges to tackle unemployment, have called for a reduction in the working week rather than redundancies.

Alain Juppé, the prime minister, signalled that he was prepared to talk to the unions about their ideas.

Mr Juppé reportedly wants to keep next year's government spending pegged at current levels.

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## EC and industry join forces as bureaucracy-busters

**S**limming regime aims to get internal market fit. DAVID RUDNICK reports

**M**ORE THAN 30 of Britain's biggest and best-known companies assembled at the BT Centre in London to support Slim, the European Commission's long-overdue plan to simplify legislation for the internal market.

The brainchild of Italian commissioner Mario Monti, Slim is starting with a pilot scheme to simplify plant legislation and complex technical rules for construction products, as well as recognition of diplomas and the intrastat system of compiling intra-European Union trade data.

In a break with the past, the team-slimming initiative will be made up not only of bureaucrats from the Commission and national civil services but also companies affected by Euro-rules and regulations.

Mr Monti believes the initiative will give European

companies clearer legislation. The Slim teams have been given a November deadline to report their findings in the four initial target areas.

British companies are among those most keen to see progress made. The London meeting was organised by the European Business Foundation, an informal network of UK corporate and trade associations that want business to have a bigger — and earlier — say in formulating Euro-market legislation. The EBF welcomes Mr Monti's initiative, saying it will make companies more competitive and boost sagging employment across Europe.

Effective UK company liaison with Brussels still seems heavily reliant on personal contacts. Many executives complain of the frustrations of discerning the Commission's intentions early enough to in-

tervene before a draft directive becomes law.

Public procurement remains a notoriously nationalistic nook in the formally free and competitive EU market. Complaints abound that advertisements and invitations to tender do not contain all the information would-be contractors need.

A number of British companies intend to raise the issue with Mr Monti. "It's not easy," said one. "As soon as conversation with him gets off general principles and down to specific issues, he passes the buck to junior colleagues in specialist departments."

But the more general need is for clearer channels of communication between Brussels and British industry.

"Take this Slim initiative for example," said one. "The CBI newsletter seems to have been the main vehicle for information but even so — and despite trade associations' best efforts — many UK companies still haven't even heard of its existence."

**Update**

- Norwegian offshore engineer and shipbuilder Kvaerner said yesterday it had won a 250 million contract to build a 94,000-tonne dead-weight chemical tanker for Norwegian shipper JO Tankers.
- Kvaerner said the contract was given to its subsidiary, Kvaerner Govan, Britain's biggest shipbuilder, which will deliver the tanker in spring 1998. The contract was subject to satisfactory completion of financial conditions, a statement said.
- The vessel will be a sister ship to the Kvaerner Govan-built JO Selje, which has a full double hull for protection against cargo spillage and environmental damage. Two further ships have been built to the same design for JO Tank-

- ers at Kvaerner's Floro shipyard in Norway.
- British Steel and the Dutch steel company Hoogovens said they would sue the European Commission over its decision to approve £38 million of aid to Irish Steel, Ireland's only steel-maker. The two companies claim the state aid amounts to unfair competition.
- The European Commission yesterday cleared the merger of businesses of Hoechst and Kloeckner-Werke. The plastic films are used in packaging and for making credit cards.
- Finland has cut its official forecast for 1996 economic growth, but said con-

- ditions were still favourable and the economy would start to pick up later this year. Citing slower-than-expected growth in Europe and a sharp slowdown late last year in key sectors like forestry, the finance ministry cut its 1996 growth forecast for gross domestic product to 5 per cent from 5.8 per cent in February.
- Greece should take measures to cut its central government budget deficit in the near future or the shortfall will exceed its 1996 target by about one percentage point of gross domestic product, the International Monetary Fund said this week.

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Finance Guardian

Stocking up for welfare winter

Privatisation has failed to produce a whole new generation of equity-holding Sids. So who will fund the widely-promoted shift from cradle-to-grave security? PATRICK DONOVAN and SARAH RYLE report

Teenage fantasy turns to portfolio management

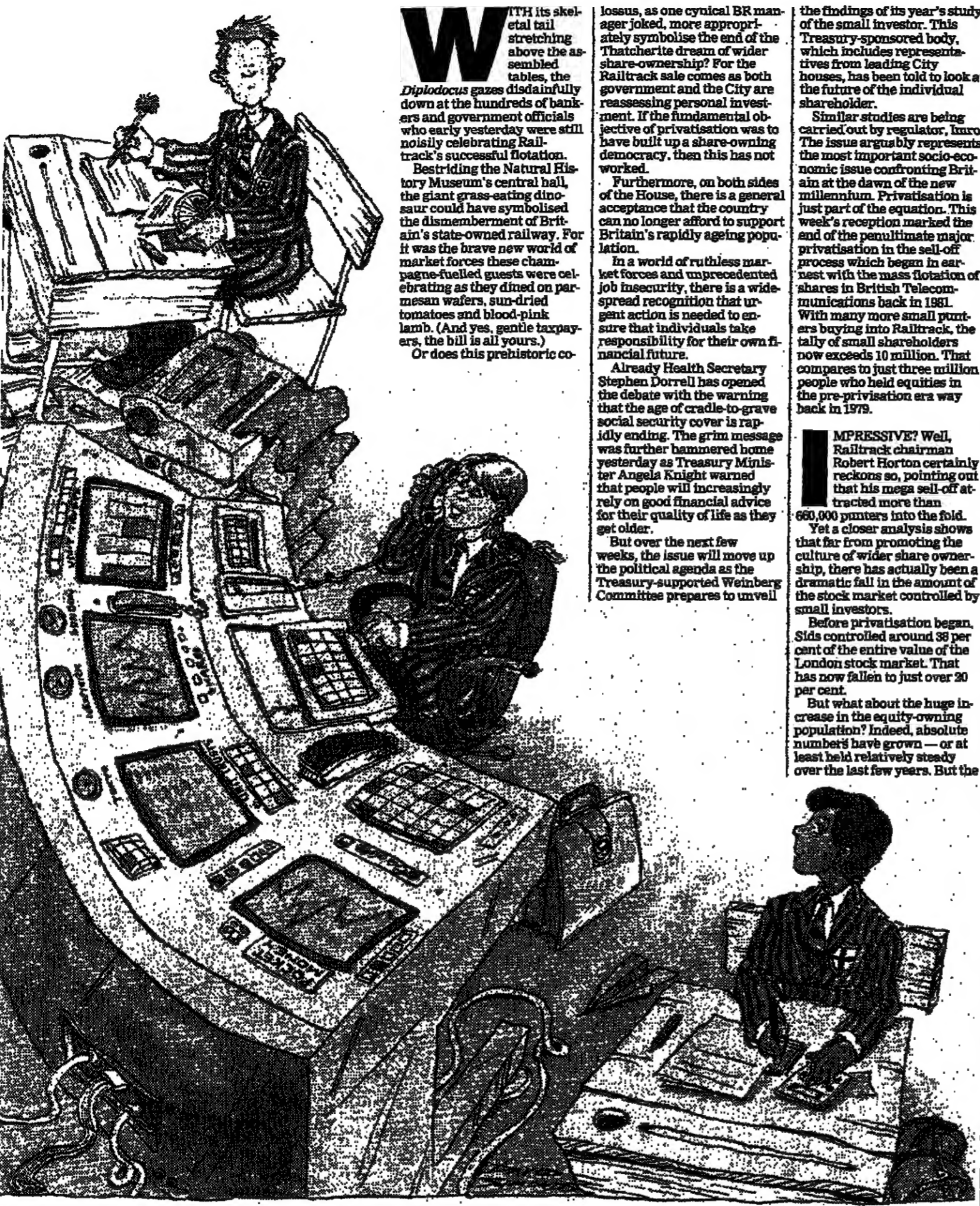
BEFORE Hollywood's version of young enterprise. Risky Business, explored the merits of brotchel-ownership, most schoolchildren believed running a sixth-form business involved producing pens, solders and selling them to family and friends.

At £24,040.64, the five months' fantasy dealing put them well ahead of the eventual winner, Queen Elizabeth's School of Ashbourne, Kent, which finished with £25,954.47.

In a classroom after the final bell, text books are shoved to one side while forms are filled in with dealing instructions and share updates.

As part of its investigation, the committee is expected to explore the radical concept of tapping the retail investment market to take a direct stake in major projects.

persuading private individuals to take equity stakes. Firstly, there is evidence that consumers with a direct interest in a company are more inclined to buy its products.



WITH its skeletal tail stretching above the assembled tables, the disdainfully down at the hundreds of bankers and government officials who early yesterday were still noisily celebrating Railtrack's successful flotation.

Already Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell has opened the debate with the warning that the age of cradle-to-grave social security cover is rapidly ending.

But over the next few weeks, the issue will move up the political agenda as the Treasury-supported Weinberg Committee prepares to unveil

the findings of its year's study of the small investor. This Treasury-sponsored body, which includes representatives from leading City houses, has been told to look at the future of the individual shareholder.

Similar studies are being carried out by regulator, Inuro. The issue arguably represents the most important socio-economic issue confronting Britain at the dawn of the new millennium.

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Art fails to imitate life



Roger Cowe

They all had a dreadful time immediately afterwards, making the state of the report a negative indicator of company prospects. That is unlikely to be the case with GE Capital, the strong financial arm of General Electric of the US, which owns businesses in Britain ranging from TIP container leasing to store and credit cards.

Quick Crossword No 8135
Across
1 The latest (4,5,4)
8 The Merchant of Venice (7)
9 Trioxigen (5)
10 Place (only fit) for rubbish (4)
11 Ratio eg of intelligence (5)
13 Drum (3-3)
14 Paper size (5)
17 Fair, generous, and a good loser (9)
19 Arabian sultanate (4)
21 Lengthwise or together (5)
22 Co-extensive part (7)
24 Its opposite sides are equal (13)
Down
1 Expanse of water (3)
2 The best (7)
3 Boat - Irish money (4)
4 Departure (6)
5 Means of saving time or effort (5,3)
6 Call forth (5)
7 Melza (5,4)
10 Past mated (anag) (4,5)
12 European country (3)
15 Country walker or roe (7)
16 Forty winks (5)
18 Smell (5)
20 Nought (4)
23 Briton in Oz (3)
27 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 333 2488. Calls cost 39p per min. cheap rate. 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by AT5

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.